

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT
FIRST READING: Jeremiah 33:14-16 (3C)
SECOND READING: 1 Thessalonians 3:12-4:2 GOSPEL: Luke 21:25-28, 34-36

A WORD FROM FATHER KELLY

As we begin this new season of Advent, what better way to initiate our period of preparation for the Birth of the Lord than to prepare our soul through the Sacrament of Reconciliation (confession). This early celebration of Reconciliation enables us to fully engage the liturgical season of Advent. By making ourselves aware of those areas of our lives that remain in darkness we are able to call upon the true light, who is Jesus Christ, to shine brightly within us. This process of conversion, in turn, gives us the desire and the strength to be sincere instruments in our world of the true meaning of Christmas.

I invite you to one of our two Advent Reconciliation Services this week: 7:00 p.m., December 4th or 10:00 a.m., December 5th. At both services we will begin with a short Liturgy of the Word, take a few moments to examine our conscience, and then confess our sins to one of the many priests available to hear individual confessions.

I strongly encourage you to take advantage of this opportunity as there will be only limited time for Reconciliation on the Saturdays of Advent. Please do not frustrate yourself by having to wait in long lines and risk the possibility that your confession may not be heard. Please plan ahead and please, please do not wait until the last minute. If you find you cannot make it to Sacred Heart Church this week, you are invited to come to one of the other Reconciliation Services at our neighboring parishes in the coming two weeks.

Also, just a reminder, the Sacrament of Reconciliation is not a time for spiritual direction or lengthy counseling. Remember, there are others behind you. Take time before celebrating the sacrament to examine your conscience so that when you enter the reconciliation room you are ready to confess your sins (without explanation or excuse), receive penance, pray an Act of Contrition, and receive absolution. Then, when you leave, begin to live anew the great gift of life that God has given to you – love God above all else and your neighbor as yourself and so prepare yourself for the joyful Birth of Jesus Christ!



Parish Advent Retreat
 “Anticipation and Hope”
 Father Ben Tapia



Sacred Heart Parish Hall
 Saturday December 8th
 9:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
 Bring your Bible!

SACRED HEART GIVING TREE

'Tis the season for giving! Beginning December 1, please take a tag for Magdalene Home or St. Vincent de Paul from the Giving Tree in the Parish Hall. Then on a Sunday during Advent, please return the bagged gift to the Giving Tree by December 23, with the tag attached. Thank you for making someone's Christmas much warmer and brighter this Christmas!



Financial Report

Year to date through	11/18/2012	11/20/2011
Offeratory received	\$353,887.25	\$349,947.96
Needed for Budget	\$366,509.43	\$375,576.99
Over (Under) Budget	(\$12,622.18)	(\$25,629.03)

A parish thrives and grows on the financial contributions of all the parishioners. Thank you to all who contribute.



Could you not keep watch for one hour? Mk 14: 37

Many thanks and blessings to all who help to keep Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration available and who keep watch one hour with Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. Please call Dan and Sarah Rice at 541-582-3717 for information.

PRAYER SERVICE FOR HEALING

For those afflicted with a chronic or a temporary illness, of body or soul, a prayer service will be offered on Wednesday, 5 December, at 5:30.

YOUTH MINISTER POSITION

Sacred Heart Catholic Church is seeking a full-time Coordinator of Youth and Young Adult Ministry to continue our Life Teen, Edge and Confirmation programs. Candidate will also serve as Campus Minister for local Catholic mid-high and high school.

Responsibilities include:

- Direct the High School Life Teen program
- Direct the Mid-High Edge program
- Organize, plan and teach Confirmation program
- Develop an active Campus Ministry program, focusing on faith formation of all students and working closely with Religion department faculty

Outreach to local high schools

Qualifications and Skills:

- High preference given to bi-lingual candidate (English and Spanish)
- Demonstrated ability to reach youth
- Experience in the faith formation of youth
- Well grounded in the Catholic faith, faithful to the Magisterium of the Catholic Church
- Living a sacramental life
- Education appropriate for the position

Please mail resume and cover letter to Marie Chandler, Sacred Heart Catholic Church, 517 W. 10th St., Medford, OR 97501 or email to: mchandler@archdpdx.org.

PATRICIAN MEETING

December 17th – Monday at 9:30 a.m. (please note time change) 50 years after Vatican II, the Holy Father has asked us to review the 16 parts of this document during the “Year of Faith”. Topic: Vatican II – #1 Constitution of Sacred Liturgy

5:00 SUNDAY MASS, 12/23 IS CANCELLED.

The 5:00 Mass on Sunday, December 23rd has been cancelled so that our decorating crew can get a head start on decorating for Christmas - a very big undertaking - without having to work into the wee hours or right up until the start of the 4:30 Family Mass Christmas Eve. We appreciate your understanding and on Christmas day, hope you will be delighted by the fruits of their labor! Thanks so much!



SUPPORT ELDERLY RELIGIOUS

A parishioner writes, “As a Catholic school student from grades K–12, I was formed to be the person I am by many religious brothers and sisters, and I am forever grateful.”

Show your thanks for the senior Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests who made a positive difference in so many lives. Please give generously to next week’s collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious.

7:00 a.m. DAILY MASS INTENTIONS

- M. Dec. 3: +Bruce Irwin
- T. Dec. 4: Catholic Daughters
- W. Dec. 5: +Holy Souls
- Th. Dec. 6: +Janet Edwards
- Fr. Dec. 7: +Holy Souls

8:30 a.m. DAILY MASS INTENTIONS

- M. Dec. 3: +Holy Souls
- T. Dec. 4: +Ernest Bahr
- W. Dec. 5: +Carmelita Ledford
- Th. Dec. 6: +Holy Souls
- Fr. Dec. 7: +Jeff Sellers
- Sat. Dec. 8: Holy Day

PLEASE PRAY for the ill of our parish especially:

Margarita La Hue, Bert and Trudy Oman, Charles Larkin, Lucina Guerrero, Betty Mercier, Thelma Roberts, Sharon Senske, Betty Shingle, Rose Coyle, Mabel Keenan, Marie Casilio, Mary Beveridge, Jeff Leroy, Helen Doody, Arnold Paradis, Rita Morrell, John Preston, Rob Sperling, Rose Casagrande, Mickey Ketchum, Marion & Bill Owens, Dick & Beverly Handley, Calvin & Maria Schwenk and Thomas Miller.

Please pray for the deceased of our parish especially: +Dorothy Krueger and +Joe Hohmann, and for their families.

“**ADVENT**”, as a word, means “coming”. In the Church, the Advent season is one where we prepare for the coming of Jesus Christ in his incarnation. “Incarnation” is a word we’ve begun to hear more often in Church. In the Nicene Creed, we say that Jesus “by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man”. To be incarnate means to be invested with human nature and form. So during Advent, we’re reminded that Jesus came to live among us as one of us. And each year, the Advent season calls us to prepare ourselves to have Jesus in our lives. How do we do that? Perhaps the best way is to model ourselves after Mary and Joseph. As they awaited the birth of Jesus, both of them were quiet, and open to hearing the Word of God and acting on it our lives. Now is a good time for us to be quiet, and to listen to what God has to say to us and wants of us.

Here are some ways that you can prepare for Jesus to come into your life.

ST. NICHOLAS DAY

The feast of St. Nicholas is Dec. 6th. It is a highlight of the Advent season. Each child puts out a shoe the night before St. Nicholas Day in the hope that the kind bishop --- with his miter, staff and bag of gifts --- will pay a visit. “Santa Claus” is modeled after St. Nicholas, but commercialism has tarnished the true story. Many families give gifts on both Dec. 6th and Christmas. Read about St. Nicholas in your favorite saints book.



THE CHRIST CANDLE

Any large white candle can be used for the Christ candle. The idea is to decorate it with symbols of Christ. Use old Christmas cards, sequins, holly, etc. The candle can be lit on Christmas Eve to show that the Light of the World has arrived. Continue to light the Christ candle throughout the year at Sunday dinner to remind your family of our waiting for Christ, as well as celebrating His birth and Resurrection.



THE EMPTY MANGER

Each child may have his own manger, or there may be one manger for the family. When acts of service or kindness are done in honor of Baby Jesus, the child receives a piece of straw to put into the manger. On Christmas morning, “Baby Jesus” is placed in the manger. Encourage your children to make Jesus’ bed as “comfortable” as possible through their good deeds. Explain Christ’s gift at Christmas and Easter that enables us to be part of God’s family.



ADVENT WREATH

The Advent wreath symbolizes the many years from Adam to Christ while the world awaited it’s Redeemer. It also represents the years we have awaited His second and final coming. The wreath holds four equally spaced candles, the

three purple ones lit on the “penitential” Sundays and a pink one for Gaudete, the joyful third Sunday in Advent. There are many available prayers and hymns that can accompany your personal Advent wreath ceremony.



Other suggestions would be to put up a Nativity scene, attend Weekday Mass, follow the daily readings of the Mass at home, fast during Advent and/or pray the Liturgy of the Hours.

Dear Parents and children,

CALLING ALL ANGELS AND... Shepherds and Wise People!

It’s time to dust off those wings, robes and turbans for the Christmas Eve Family Mass at 4:30 p.m., with our annual enactment of the Christmas Nativity. I have some children’s angel wings (mostly large), halos and shepherd’s tunics available, as well as very easy ideas for homemade costumes. Got a towel – instant shepherd headdress!

The practice for the Family (previously the Children’s) Mass will be at 3:45 p.m. Monday, December 24th at the Church (meet in the Nursery at the Parish Hall first). I will also be explaining the liturgy of the word for the children at this time also.

So please sign up and let me know so I can plan for this important Mass.

All questions directed to Mary Stallard, phone# 541-779-4661 ext 107.

Enjoy the holy Advent Season. God Bless

Mary Stallard

Religious Education Coordinator



*First Annual Christmas Concert
Presented by the Sacred Heart Music Ministry
on Friday December 14th at 7:00 pm!!*

A variety of instruments and beautiful voices!

A reception will follow in the Parish Hall

**FEAST OF OUR LADY
OF GUADALUPE**

Sacred Heart Church will celebrate the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe with a special Mass at the Armory on S. Pacific Hwy on Wednesday, December 12th. Festivities begin at 5:00 p.m. with dancing, followed by the Rosary and then Mass at 7:00 p.m. All are invited.



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS BREAKFAST

Sunday, December 9th, scrambled eggs, ham, biscuits & gravy, pancakes and even French toast will be served up in the Hall. Come on over and enjoy with a cup of nice, hot coffee. Cost is \$18.00 per family, \$6.00 adults, and \$2.00 children under 10 years old. Proceeds benefit Cub Scout Pac 1.

MEN OF THE PARISH are invited to our business meeting on the 2nd Monday and our Social on the 4th Monday of the month at the Knights Hall. Want to know more? Ask any Knight and see our website ~ <http://kofc1594.org>

ALTAR SOCIETY NEWS!!

Thank you for supporting the See's Candy Sale.

Friday, December 7th, will be the Evening Meeting, beginning at 6:00, with a Christmas dinner featuring Ham and side dishes. Please bring a salad, dessert, to share and your place setting.

Monday, December 10th, will be the Morning Meeting, beginning at 10:45, with the Rosary, **NEW TIME.** followed by a short meeting. Mr. Meeker and the Sacred Heart School choir will perform at 11:30. Ladies, please bring cookies to share with the singers. A Christmas Ham Dinner, will follow. Please bring a salad or dessert to share and your own table setting.

Upcoming: Valentine Sweetheart Dance, Saturday February 16th, at the Rogue Regency. Contact: Louise Gorman 541-776-2441, for ticket information. A great Christmas Gift for that someone special.



CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS

Next meeting: Tuesday, December 4th. Rosary at 8:00 a.m. in the church followed by Mass, then to the Hall for a short meeting. All ladies of the parish are invited to join us for our Advent Pot Luck Brunch at 10:00 a.m. in the Hall. We also ask that you bring either \$5.00 or food items for the Sacred Heart Food Bank. CDA members please bring gifts for Mt. Angel seminarians as suggested by Father Ben: Wal-Mart gift cards, local restaurant gift cards, cash for the seminarian emergency bank, etc. For information contact: Connie Moyer at 541-773-8736 or Heather Meenaghan at 541-944-3073.





SACRED HEART SCHOOL NEWS

CHRISTMAS SHOEBOXES FOR CHILDREN!

Please join **Sacred Heart School** and our Parishes in our combined effort to **bring Christmas to hundreds of children and adults** in our area. The entire school is participating in our **Christmas Shoebox Project** for children and adults to be **distributed by St. Vincent de Paul** and the **Family Nurturing Center in Medford**.

Please **do not include chocolate or food, liquids or glass**

We are encouraging the Parishes to purchase for adults (both men and women) because that is the focus for St. Vincent de Paul, but we are also including ideas for children.

1. Everything should be **NEW**.
2. Please **DO NOT wrap the items individually**.
3. Please **wrap the box** so that the **top can be lifted off** for inspection purposes.
4. **Label your shoebox boy or girl or adult and appropriate age group**
5. Return the **gift wrapped box to Sacred Heart School** before **Monday, Dec. 17th**.

If you have any questions, please contact Chris Sinclair at Sacred Heart School at 541-772-4105 or email at csinclair@shcs.org Thank you so much for your continued spirit of giving to others.

SCRIP will be on sale after the 7:00 and 8:30 Masses every Sunday from November 18 to December 16. Help support the School while doing your Christmas Shopping! Thank you.



“My soul waits for the Lord more than watchmen for the morning.” ~ Psalm 130:6

SACRED HEART CHURCH CALENDARS HAVE ARRIVED!

Thank you Conger Morris for once again gifting our church with calendars! These 2013 beautiful calendars are bi-lingual. Please enjoy and use them with all the knowledge of the church year that they provide. They will be at the church doors now till they are gone.



ADVENT SERVICES at Sacred Heart Church

Reconciliation Services

Tuesday, December 4 at 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, December 5 at 10:00 a.m.

Additional Confession Times

Saturday, December 8, 15, & 22 -- 3:00 to 5:15 p.m.

CHARITABLE GIFTS YEAR END CUTOFF

Donors must deliver or mail gifts on or before December 31, 2012 in order to claim a charitable contribution deduction for 2012. Checks that are placed in the church offering on January 1, 2013 will not qualify, even if predated in 2012 or actually written in 2012.

Youth Minister/Newman Center Coordinator: We are searching for a faithful and faith-filled Catholic to coordinate our Youth and Newman ministry programs. Working closely with the Pastor, the Youth Minister/Coordinator will provide leadership in the design and implementation of the youth ministry and Newman programs for youth and young adults within the church community of Our Lady of the Mountain. This is a part time position, with no more than 10 hours a week.

To apply, please send resume and references to the Our Lady of the Mountain Catholic Church (987 Hillview Drive, Ashland, 97520. olmop@mind.net) ASAP.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL 2424 N. PACIFIC HWY, MEDFORD 541-772-3828



SALE OF CHRISTMAS TREES

Saturday, December 1 - Saturday, December 15

Hours: Saturday & Sunday - 10:00 A.M. - 8:00 P.M.

Mondays - Fridays - 3:00 P.M. - 7:00 P.M.

Proceeds will benefit St. Vincent de Paul and Knights of Columbus Charities.

2012 ARCHBISHOP'S CATHOLIC APPEAL

Thank you very much for your participation in the 2012 Archbishop's Catholic Appeal! Your generous support helps provide the necessary funding to sustain and strengthen the many archdiocesan ministries to individuals and parishes. As of mid-November, we were at 34% participation by our

parishioners, up 10% from two years ago...that is very good news! Congratulations! We are still just \$3,439 from reaching our goal of \$76,491. If you have not yet responded, we invite you to please do so. You can find additional pledge envelopes at the Church entrances. Again, thank you for your cooperation and assistance.

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Monday -- Friday

8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Closed 12:30 -- 1:30 for lunch

Thank you Advertiser of the Week

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

Please thank our Advertisers with your patronage.

To place an ad please call Jack Wallich at
1-800-867-0660. Thank you.