

Hope Advent



Around the Parish DECEMBER NEWSLETTER

2025

AN IMAGINATIVE ADVENT PRAYER REFLECTION

The Mountain of the Lord's House

Imagine: You're climbing the mountain of the Lord. At first, the path is wide with trees and flowers. You breathe in cool, clean air. As you climb, the path narrows; it's steeper and rockier. The air is thinner; you're now a bit out of breath as you climb higher. You have to rest to catch your breath. You wonder how much farther you must go. In the distance, you see someone looking at you, waving for you to come.

You go to him, and stand in front of him. His robes move gently in the mountain breeze. He smiles and asks ...*What are you seeking along this path?* He says: *I am the prophet, Isaiah. This is the mountain of the Lord—full and rich with life and dreams. What dreams do you bring with you to this place?* Isaiah looks at you with eyes that know how to dream. *I dream swords are beat into plowshares. I dream of peace, of life, of hope.* "I will change your swords into plowshares so you can till the soil of your soul and know that God is with you. Are you ready for this dream to be real? You look into the eyes of this dreamer, Isaiah, and you say: **Yes. Yes, I am ready.** Isaiah smiles and takes your hand in his, his eyes filled deep with hope and life. He understands you. And then he says: ***Come, let us walk in the light of the Lord!***

As each of us begins this new Church year, ask:

- What do I tell Isaiah I'm seeking?
- What dreams do I bring to God's mountain—what dreams do I want to share with the Lord?
- What are the swords in my heart that need to be changed—swords that wound me and hold me back from dreaming as I climb God's holy mountain?

Hand over your swords to Isaiah—the dreamer; ask him to help you change them into something beautiful—something life-giving.

Let these be a gift from you to Jesus this Christmas!

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Monsignor D

based on an Advent Series by Loyola Press

AND LET PERPETUAL LIGHT SHINE UPON THEM.
MAY THE SOUL OF OUR FAITHFUL DEPARTED
THROUGH THE MERCY OF GOD REST IN PEACE

Mary Gaspari 11/6/25

SACRED HEART MEMORIAL SOCIETY ENROLLMENT

In Memory of ERIKA MATHEIS

By Carol & Bob Duchynski

In Memory of TIMOTHY WENGERT

By Pat Shalter

THEREFORE WELCOME ONE ANOTHER AS CHRIST
HAS WELCOMED YOU, FOR THE GLORY OF GOD.

Rom(15:7)


NEW PARISHIONERS

Wilson & Modesta Heredia -daughters Lorena,
Sophia, Cecelia Rose

Mary Ann McColgan

Bob & Martha Spezialetti

December 2025 Lector & Server Schedule

Dec. 6/7	Second Sunday of Advent	Dec. 20/21	Fourth Sunday of Advent
5:00 pm	Mary Ann Kelly— Ivann Gonzalez, Amelia Kozak	5:00 pm	Vince Moffitt—Christian & Israel Gonzalez
7:30 am	Denise Mogel	7:30 am	Mike Gallagher
9:30 am	Karen Piraino— Gemma Brunner, Victoria Schaeffer	9:30 am	Lou Sutherland— Cisco Anewalt, Noah Vu
11:15 am	Margaret Hueske— Sam Smith, Jayden Paulino	11:15 am	Kathy Nevel—Sam Smith, Jayden Paulino
Dec. 8	Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary	Dec. 24	Christmas Eve
7:00 am	Lou Sutherland	5:00 pm	Mary Ann Kase—Gemma Brunner, Amelia Kozak, Ivann Gonzalez
12:10 pm	Regina Doyle	10:00pm	Mike Gallagher—Emma Ashman, Jianna Sanchez-Lopez, Victoria Schaeffer
7:00 pm	Mike Gallagher— Cisco Anewalt, Jianna Sanchez-Lopez	Dec. 25	Christmas Day
Dec. 13/14	Third Sunday of Advent	7:30 am	JoAnn Schmura—Shaun Marquez
5:00 pm	Dean Reber—Christian & Israel Gonzalez	9:30 am	Lori Anewalt—Cisco Anewalt, Amelia & Charlotte Bell
7:30 am	Regina Doyle—Shaun Marquez	11:15 am	Patricia Ann Kos—Sam Smith, Noah Vu, Jayden Paulino
9:30 am	Lori Anewalt—Hope Varish, Cisco Anewalt	Dec. 27/28	Holy Family of Jesus Mary and Joseph
11:15 am	Bill Wellock—Amelia & Charlotte Bell	5:00 pm	Mary Ann Kelly—Ivann Gonzalez, Victoria Schaeffer
		7:30 am	Sandie Wrable—Shaun Marquez
		9:30 am	Regina Doyle—Jianna Sanchez-Lopez, Hope Varish
		11:15 am	Margaret Hueske— Amelia Kozak, Noah Vu



PARISH WIDE EVENT Reading Royals

Holy Rosary/Sacred Heart Parishes Faith & Family Night Saturday, December 6, 7:00 pm
Ticket Link available on FB page www.gofevo.com/event/Sacredheart1206
Join us for a Family Fun Faithful Filled Night



JOIN US IN THE WACHTER ROOM

COFFEE & DONUTS WITH SANTA

FRUIT, DONUTS, COFFEE & TEA, JUICE, HOT CHOCOLATE, AND MORE

SUNDAY DECEMBER 7 AFTER 9:30 MASS



Children's Christmas Choir

CHILDREN OF SACRED HEART SCHOOL WITH HOLY ROSARY & SACRED HEART PARISHES PREP. ALL ARE INVITED TO BE A PART OF THE CHRISTMAS EVE CELEBRATION BEGINNING DECEMBER 7th Practice will be Sunday 2-3 P.M. PARENT FRIENDLY
Questions email activity@shrcparish.org



ADVENT BY CANDLELIGHT SUNDAY DECEMBER 7, 5-7:00PM

GYMNASIUM Sacred Heart School, 701 Franklin Street West Reading, PA 19611 610-373-3316

An evening designed to help Catholic & faith-filled women begin the Christmas season in a centered and faith-filled way. A *table host* simply gathers others to join her at her table and coordinates the meal- table settings, candles, food, desserts, and more. The setup itself is part of the fun, as the room fills with candlelight, conversation, and the unique touch each group brings to the room.

Reserve your table \$30 with activity@shrcparish.org / slarkin@sacredheartreading.org



Annual Christmas Bazaar—Preview Party Thursday, December 11 from 6-9 pm Adult Only Event

\$10 @ The Door FOOD—FELLOWSHIP—MUSIC—AUCTION

RSVP slakin@sacredheartreading.org

Sacred Heart School, 701 Franklin Street West Reading, PA 19611 610-373-3316



BERKS CATHOLIC VESPERS

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14 3:00—4:00

A BEAUTIFUL WAY TO CELEBRATE THE LENTEN SEASON AS WE WAIT ON THE COMING OF OUR LORD.



LITTLE BLUE BOOKS FOR ADVENT

These worship guides are located at the entrances of the church, as well as the Chapel. Donation of \$1.00 per book is greatly appreciated.



Singing helps us remember God's Word. Paul says, "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly...singing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs." Lyrics expound on the person, work, and glory of Christ stay with us long after we've forgotten the main points of the sermon. Practice is Thursday, at 7:00 p.m., come join us!

SACRED HEART PARISH WISH LIST

The parochial staff of Sacred Heart Church & School are grateful for the enormous amount of support we receive from the members of our parish. While our operations budget accounts for typical day-to-day expenses, there are some items that are not covered. We work hard to preserve our resources and often utilize them beyond their useful life span. Thank you for considering a monetary donation for one or more of the items listed.

- **Phase 1 of church lighting project** – upgrade light control panel in church to accommodate LED bulbs & purchase LED fixtures. Approximate cost: \$50,000-\$70,000

- **Air conditioning in church**

Other school wishes: new uniforms for those in need;

iPads for students in 6-8th grade;

donation for Student Council activities held through out the school year

- Additional donations needed for **church & school security** Total estimated cost = \$17,765

Monetary donations to purchase items for parish use may be tax deductible. Please use this form to select the items you would like to be covered by your monetary contribution.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email: _____

Item(s): _____

Please send donations to: Sacred Heart Church

PO Box 6217

Reading, PA 19610

ATT: CHURCH PROJECTS

PAYMENT BY ELECTRONIC FUNDS TRANSFER (EFT)

Electronic Funds Transfer automatically deducts your pledge from your Checking/Savings/Money Market account. Information must be completed to give electronically to the campaign.

I authorize Sacred Heart Parish to automatically withdraw
my contributions from my: ☐ Checking ☐ Savings/Money Market.
Please withdraw \$_____ on the _____ of each month.

This authority will begin _____ (month/year) and will end _____ (month/year).

I understand I can stop the electronic pledging by notifying my financial institution or Sacred Heart Parish.

Routing# _____ Checking Acct. # _____ Savings Acct. # _____

SIGNATURE for EFT Authorization _____ Date _____

PAYMENT BY CREDIT CARD

Credit Card (☐ One time ☐ monthly) ☐ VISA ☐ Mastercard ☐ Discover ☐ American Express

Donor's name as appears on Credit Card _____

Your Daytime Phone No. (required) _____

Credit Card # _____ Security Code ____ Exp. Date _____

Please charge my credit card monthly for \$_____ beginning _____ (month/year) and ending _____ (month/year).

SIGNATURE for Credit Card Authorization _____ Date _____

Credit Card Billing Address (if different) _____

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PAYMENT BY CHECK

Make checks payable to **Sacred Heart Catholic Education Endowment Fund.**

Send to: **Sacred Heart Parish, PO Box 6217, Reading, PA 19610-0217**

Check Number: _____ ☐ Enclosed



SACRED HEART CHURCH FINANCIAL REPORT				SACRED HEART SCHOOL FINANCIAL REPORT			
JULY 1, 2025 TO SEPT 30, 2025				JULY 1, 2025 TO SEPT 30, 2025			
	3 Months 9/30/2025	3 Months 9/30/2024			3 Months 9/30/2025	3 Months 9/30/2024	
CHURCH INCOME:				SCHOOL INCOME:			
Offertory Collections Income	157,616	162,278		Tuition & Fees Income	217,970	228,569	
Donations, Bequests, Memorials Income	8,234	16,159		Fundraising Income (Net of Expenses)	18,252	27,158	
Program Income	1,240	1,050		Gifts & Bequests	-	-	
Other Income	1,600	1,488		Other Income	74	2,199	
TOTAL CHURCH OPERATING INCOME	\$ 168,690	\$ 180,975		TOTAL SCHOOL OPERATING INCOME	\$ 236,296	\$ 257,926	
CHURCH EXPENSES:				SCHOOL EXPENSES:			
Administration Expenses	68,742	58,353		Administration Expenses	80,150	52,233	
Religious Education Expenses	22,144	26,047		Instruction Expenses	165,398	166,892	
Diocesan Assessment Expenses Church, Rectory, Parish Center Expenses	48,598	47,463		Building Operation & Maintenance	39,244	41,767	
	70,582	48,938		Insurance Exp/Diocesan Assessment	12,502	11,786	
Other Expenses	3,000	3,000		Other Expenses	-	195	
TOTAL CHURCH OPERATING EXPENSES	\$ 213,066	\$ 183,801		TOTAL SCHOOL OPERATING EXPENSES	\$ 297,294	\$ 272,873	
SUBTOTAL OF OPERATIONS	\$ (44,376)	\$ (2,826)		SUBTOTAL OF OPERATIONS	\$ (60,998)	\$ (14,947)	
Capital Expenses & Improvements	(5,066)	-		Capital Expenses & Improvements	-	-	
Endowment Donations	2,000	25,200		Home & School - Net	1,812	(40,286)	
Estate Donation/Emp. Retent Credit		119,066					
Church Subsidy cover School Expenses	(44,000)	(1,000)		Church Subsidy to School Income	44,000	1,000	
Endowment Distributions to School	(30,000)	(30,000)		Endowment Distribut from Church	30,000	30,000	
NET INCOME/LOSS	\$ (121,442)	\$ 110,440		NET INCOME/LOSS After Subsidy	\$ 14,814	\$ (24,233)	