

Parish Newsletter

5 SIMPLE WAYS TO PREPARE YOUR HEART FOR JESUS THIS ADVENT

Did you ever notice that the Advent season seems to come and go in the blink of an eye? All of a sudden you find yourself at Christmas Mass wondering how your time to prepare for Christ so easily slipped through your fingers. You promised yourself that this Advent would be different. You wouldn't be caught by surprise, yet again! You bought Advent prayer books and an Advent wreath kit. You had great intentions to make this Advent season very different from last, but already you feel it happening again. Here's a suggestion, just stop right now and make a conscious decision to slow down and embrace the season of Advent, and it's purpose.

Advent is a season of preparing. If you've ever entertained guests, you will see how those experiences lend themselves well to your own groundwork this Advent to invite Christ to dwell within your heart—and thus be ready for His second coming.

1. **Prepare room at the Inn:** Your heart is where Christ wishes to dwell and Advent is the perfect time to make room in it for His presence. Begin Advent by making an Examination of Conscience where you ask our Heavenly Father to reveal any unforgiveness that exists in your heart, and then forgive others as God has forgiven you.
2. **Clean out the cobwebs:** A way to clean out the cobwebs is to go to Confession during Advent. The Sacrament of Reconciliation is an important part of preparing your heart for Jesus; this is because the priest acts in the person of Christ in helping you identify the cobwebs that you may not be seeing on your own.
3. **Hang new curtains:** The room of your heart is now ready: unforgiveness and cobwebs have been cleared out. Now it is time to hang new curtains! So throw out the old curtains of fear and despair and hang new curtains of hope and joy.
4. **Get out the fine china and set the table:** This is the time to get the fine china out of the cupboard; He's on His way! Our attitude is one of enthusiastic expectation and anticipation of His presence.
5. **Open the front door:** After all the work is finished and we are ready, it's time to take a step back and simply "be." In this state of "be-ing" we don't question how time slipped through our fingers; we don't worry if there was more we should have done. We are ready for Christ.

May your heart be made ready for Christ and may your Advent season be a blessed one!



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BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS



As autumn arrives, people in various places may notice

something odd. A procession of animals, everything from dogs and cats to hamsters and even horses, is led to churches for a special ceremony called the Blessing of Animals. This custom is conducted in remembrance of Saint Francis of Assisi's love for all creatures.

Francis, whose feast day is October 4th, wrote a Canticle of the Creatures, an ode to God's living

things. "All praise to you, Oh Lord, for all these brother and sister creatures."

On Saturday, October 7, Deacon Mark blessed nine dogs and one cat on the Parish Lawn. It was a beautiful, sunny day and the dogs seemed to be very excited to meet each other. The cat, on the other hand, seemed content to be safely tucked away in its carrier. During the blessing, a prayer was offered, and the pets were gently sprinkled with holy water.

If you missed the Blessing of the Animals, we will continue this tradition next October. Call the Parish Office for details.

"We host Fair Trade Sales to help the artisans and their families and to raise awareness in our community."

LIVE YOUR FAITH IN THE MARKETPLACE

Herald Christmas by purchasing fair trade products, which will bring peace and joy to families of artisans around the world this holiday season.

You can make an impact in the lives of artisans and farmers around the world by choosing to purchase fair and ethically produced products from CRS partner SERRV. By supporting this work, you bring dignity to the workplace, provide opportunities for children to attend school and make communities stronger. And for every purchase you make, Serrv will donate a percentage of the sales to the CRS Fair Trade Fund, which supports farmers and artisans overseas.

Behind every basket, tunic and necklace that is offered, you'll find a story of positive change. A story of an empowered artisan or farmer who works in a safe environment, can send his or her children to school, and can save for the future with the reliable income he or she earns through fair trade. Go to serrv.org to read their stories.

Please come to our Fair Trade Sale on Sunday, December 10 from 8:30 AM-1:00 PM in 602 (the white house next door to the chapel). Cash and checks are accepted.

CHRISTMAS EVE MASS SCHEDULE

4:00 PM CHURCH

4:00 PM CHAPEL

7:30 PM CHAPEL

7:30 PM SPANISH
CHURCH

10:00 PM CHAPEL

CHRISTMAS DAY MASS SCHEDULE

7:30 AM CHAPEL

9:30 AM CHAPEL

creating opportunity



strengthening communities

empowering women



HELP WANTED

A volunteer/s to water the poinsettias in the Church, Chapel, and Sacred Heart Church. You may choose one of the three churches or take care of the plants in all three worship sites. Whichever is convenient for you is fine. A green thumb is not required.

If you're interested in volunteering, please contact Madelyn O'Hara at 610-639-0923 or stanndulted@gmail.com.



BAKE SALE & VISIT WITH SANTA

When: Sunday, 12/10,
8:30 AM– 1:00 PM

Where: 602 S. Main St.
(white house next to chapel)

Hosted by the Women's Guild to benefit Needy Families in our parish

Baked Good Donations are welcome, please label if the dessert contains nuts.

NEW ALTAR SERVER COMMISSIONING

Congratulations new Youth Altar Servers!

This fall we welcomed twelve young parishioners to the Youth Altar Server Ministry. After participating in a four week training program, the servers were commissioned within Mass on Sunday, October 22. and are now ready to serve regularly.

If your child is interested in being an Altar Server,

it's not too late to join. Children in 5th to 12th grade are welcome. Please contact Madelyn O'Hara at stanndulted@gmail.com to join.



Altar Server Commissioning (Not pictured: Adam L., Joey C. & Maggie R.)

FEASTS TO HONOR OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE 2017

Where: Sacred Heart Church

When: Saturday, Sunday & Tuesday, 12/9, 10 & 12

Devotions: 12/9, 8 PM, Novena & Rosary followed by the preaching of Luis Manuel Sanchez

Mañanitas: 12/9 at 10:30 PM

Official Celebration to Our Lady of Guadalupe in Sacred Heart Church

Mañanitas: 12/10 at 9:00 AM (songs with live band in Church)

Spanish Mass & Fellowship: 12/10, 9:30 AM

Guadalupe Pilgrimage Procession: 12/12, 6 PM from St. Ann parking lot to Sacred Heart Church & Spanish Mass at 7:30 PM. Mass will be sung by Saint Patrick's Choir.

All are welcome!

VIRGIN OF GUADALUPE QUEEN OF MEXICO, EMPRESS OF THE AMERICAS. PRAY FOR US.



STATEMENT OF OPERATING REVENUE & EXPENDITURES

OCTOBER 31, 2017

Statement of Operating Revenue & Expenditures ~ 10/31/17

	Current Fiscal Year 07/01/17 - 10/31/17	Current Budget 07/01/17 - 10/31/17	Previous Year 07/01/16 - 10/31/16
OPERATING REVENUE			
Church Collections	\$266,582	\$282,600	\$286,475
Other Income	\$88,544	\$100,705	\$88,110
Cemetery Operations - St Ann	\$4,061	\$1,440	\$4,746
Cemetery Operations - Sacred Heart	\$738	-\$1,240	-\$618
TOTAL OPERATING REVENUE	\$359,925	\$383,505	\$378,713
OPERATING EXPENDITURES			
Diocesan Assessment	\$43,433	\$43,400	\$37,533
Payroll	\$119,861	\$121,593	\$105,386
Payroll Taxes & Fringe Benefits	\$35,524	\$37,866	\$31,282
Administration	\$56,677	\$68,318	\$62,993
Maintenance & Repairs	\$24,883	\$12,304	\$15,265
Utilities	\$14,835	\$18,110	\$15,743
Holy Family School Subsidy	\$66,680	\$66,680	\$68,334
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENDITURES	\$361,893	\$368,271	\$336,536
EXCESS OPERATING REVENUE (EXPENDITURES)	(\$1,968)	\$15,234	\$42,177

Statement of Total Receipts & Expenditures ~ 10/31/17

St Ann Parish Operating Cash Balance 7/01/17	\$577,033
Sacred Heart Cemetery Operating Cash Balance 7/01/17	\$32,499
Total Operating Cash Balance 07/01/17	\$609,532

Add:

Bequest	\$2,000	
Extraordinary Collections	\$33,001	
Other Receipts - Parish Charity	\$7,222	
Accounts Payable	\$1,348	
Unrealized Gain	\$8,004	
<u>Total Additions</u>		\$51,575

Deduct:

Excess Operating Expenditures	\$1,968	
Addition to Property/Equipment	\$97,332	
Other Expense - Parish Charity	\$5,005	
<u>Total Deductions</u>		\$104,305

Operating Cash Balance 10/31/17**

Operating Accounts	\$492,987
Heritage of Faith	\$0
Parish Organizations	\$25,623
Sacred Heart Cemetery	\$33,237
St Ann Cemetery Improvement	\$4,955
Total:	\$556,802

Operating Cash Balance 10/31/17

\$556,802

**Note: RESTRICTED FUNDS:
\$200,000 capital expense fund;
\$100,000 Sacred Heart cemetery endowed care