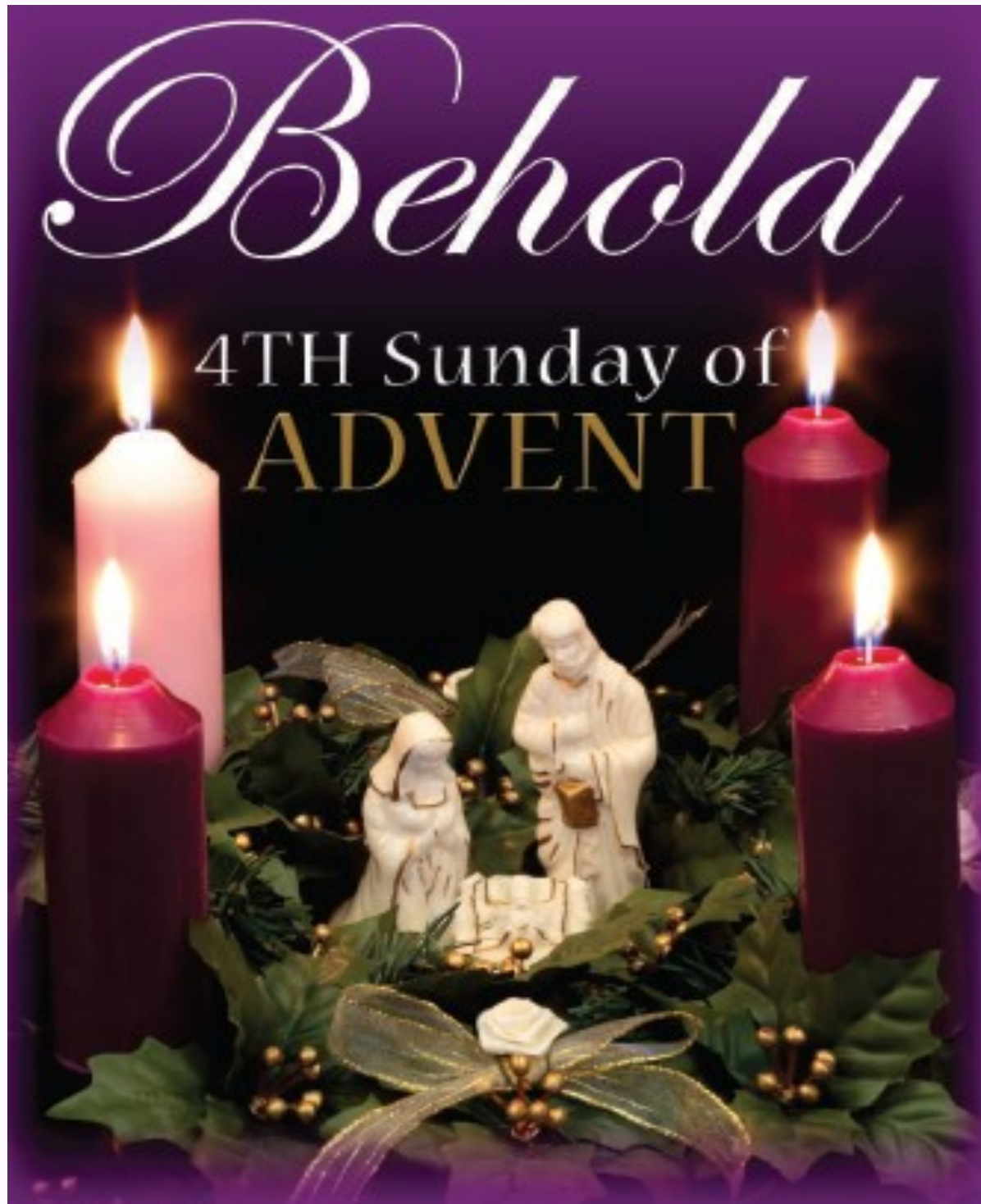


December 19, 2021



Roman Catholic Church of the Sacred Heart  
720 Merrick Ave  
North Merrick, NY 11566  
Phone: 516-379-1356

*The Heart of Jesus in North Merrick*

**Pastoral Staff**

**Rev. Stephen Brigandi, Pastor**  
 Rev. Peter Sarpong, Associate Pastor  
 Deacon Charles Kammerer  
 Deacon John Heverin

**Parish Outreach**

Mrs. Tanya Kasprzyk, Coordinator  
 Outreach Office: 516-379-6123  
 Monday —Thursday 10am-1:30pm

**Faith Formation Coordinator Grades 1-5**

Mrs. Cecilia Bradley  
 cbradleyshrep@gmail.com

**Music Coordinator**

Mrs. Jeanne Nuñez jeannenunezshc@gmail.com

**Pastoral Associate/Faith Formation Coordinator Grades 6-8**

Miss Carol Tannehill ctannehillshc@gmail.com

**Parish Center  
Fax**

**516-379-1356**  
**516-379-1610**

**Parish Center Hours:**

Mon.—Fri. 9am—12pm & 1pm -4pm

Website: sacredheartnm.org

Mrs. Kathy Ammirati—Volunteer Coordinator ext. 22  
 Mrs. Jean Buonocore - Admin. Assistant ext. 21  
 Mrs. Mary Katz - Finance Administrator ext. 16  
 Mrs. Ingrid Samperi Receptionist ext. 10  
 Mr. Matt O'Brien - Maintenance Director ext. 14

\*\* Please visit our Parish Facebook Page: ***Roman Catholic Church of the Sacred Heart***\*\*

*We hope that all new residents will come to the Parish Center to register.*

***Adult Christian Initiation***

If you are interested in exploring the Catholic faith or completing your initiation into the Church please call the Parish Center.

***Infant Baptism Preparation*** If you wish to arrange a baptism at Sacred Heart Church, please contact the Parish Center at 516-379-1356 ext.10. One of our baptism coordinators will be happy to arrange a time to meet with you. Ideally, both Godparents should be practicing Catholics. We will review the procedures for the sacrament and you will be able to fill out all the necessary paperwork. Baptisms are held on the first and third Sunday of each month at 2pm in the church. First time parents need to attend a baptism class. They are held on the last Monday of each month in the church at 7:30pm. Crying babies welcome! Godparents are encouraged but not required to attend.

***Sacrament of Matrimony*** Please contact the Parish Center **at least one year in advance** of the intended date of the wedding. A priest or deacon of the parish will interview you, set the wedding date and help you register for the required marriage preparation program. Marriage Preparation is held in the parish three times a year. Please contact Deacon John @ [DunmoreDoc@gmail.com](mailto:DunmoreDoc@gmail.com) for dates and times.

***Sacrament of Reconciliation*** A priest is available each Saturday at 4:00PM in the church. Please don't hesitate to call a priest at the Parish Center for an appointment for Confession at another time.

***Sacraments for the Homebound*** If you or a family member are not able to attend Mass due to temporary or chronic illness, and would like to receive the Sacraments of Communion, Reconciliation and/or Anointing of the Sick, please call the Parish Center.

**Sunday, December 12, 2021**

<b>Mass Attendance:</b>	1196
<b>Envelopes used:</b>	451
<b>Collection:</b>	\$24,865.00
<b>(Fiscal) Year to Date:</b>	\$226,716.00



**Monday, December 20, 2021**

9AM Joanne Marie Flood

**Tuesday, December 21, 2021**

9AM Patricia Glenn Scott O'Gorman

**Wednesday, December 22, 2021**

9AM Janet Castine

**Thursday, December 23, 2021**

9AM Sylvia Passaretti

**Friday, December 24, 2021**

9AM Mary A. Vaccacio

4PM (Gym) Santo, Ida and Julie Luberto

4PM (Church) Theresa & Philip Horsting,  
Mary Walsh

10PM William Connor

**Saturday, December 25, 2021**

8AM Robert Williams

10AM Parishioners of Sacred Heart

12PM Jack & Ursula Messina

**Sunday, December 26, 2021**

8AM Parishioners of Sacred Heart

10AM Joseph Licari

12PM Anna McManus & John McManus, Jr.

5PM Shaun Hughes, Kevin Murphy,  
Ann Ardi, Pete Bonfardino

*In our thoughts and prayers.*

Joanne Angelastro

Taylor Agurto

Milan Baranek

Edward Bennett

Mary Berberich

John Brennan

Joanne Campbell

Baby Jack

Baby Kaylee

Marjorie Cirello

Dolores Costello

Bob Cruickshank

Julio Curra

Betty DiNicola

Yolanda DeLustro

Matthew Dwyer

Matilde Franzese

Robert Galvin

Sr. Marie Vianney Gallagher

Frank Godla

Marta Godla

Annmarie Guertin

Frank Guertin

Veronique Hall

Gloria Hannifin

Elena Heil

Pat Hesse

Barbara Jenkins

Jeff Kravitz

Kathy Keegan

Jackie Kraemer

Brian Mohr

Jack McGreevy

Katherine McGreevy

Paul McMullin

Stephen Mitchell

Taylor Oshan

Jack Palamaro

Peter Palamaro, Jr.

Eileen Pio

Flo Puff

Ginesia Reale

Christine Rizzaiti

Debbie Ryan

Benny Sarnelli

Christina Scelfo

Maria Sposato

Ann M. Sullivan

Mary Sweeney

Joan Tamburello

Theresa Vacchio

Danielle Valerioti

Nelson Villaflor

Aidan Walden

Rosemarie Ziminski

Robert Ziminski

**Prayers for the Sick**

In an effort to make sure parishioners who are ill are properly prayed for we would like to keep our Sick List as up to date as possible. Names will remain for one full month, but will be **removed at the end of every month**, unless there is a request by the family to extend the prayers for the following month.

## Heart to Heart Ministry

If anyone who has been corresponding with a retired priest or sister would like a Christmas card to send them, please stop by Outreach Monday through Thursday between 10 am and 1:30 pm. We have plenty!

Thank you for keeping them in your thoughts and prayers!

## The Promises of Our Lord to Saint Margaret Mary For Souls Devoted to His Sacred Heart

I will give them all the graces necessary for their state of life.

I will give them peace in their families.

I will console them in all their troubles.

I will be their refuge in life and especially in death.

I will abundantly bless all their undertakings.

Sinners shall find in my Heart the source and infinite ocean of mercy.

Tepid souls shall become fervent.

Fervent souls shall rise speedily to great perfection.

I will bless those places wherein the image of My Sacred Heart shall be exposed and venerated.

I will give to priests the power to touch the most hardened hearts.

Persons who propagate this devotion shall have their names eternally written in my Heart.

In the excess of the mercy of my Heart, I promise you that my all powerful love will grant to all those who receive Communion on the First Fridays, for nine consecutive months, the grace of final repentance: they will not die in my displeasure, nor without receiving the sacraments and my Heart will be their secure refuge in that last hour.



Let us remember all our parishioners who have been called home to our Loving God. We especially remember Barbara Happel, Carmela Calderone, Rosemary Kusky, Susan Fitzpatrick and Francine D'Alberto



The Bread & Wine for the week of December 19th has been donated by Joanne Clarke in memory of

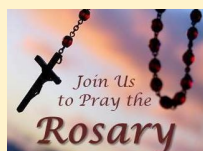
Joseph and Stephanie Sommer

## Ministry of Praise

### Pope's Prayer Intention December

#### Catechists

Let us pray for the catechists, summoned to announce the Word of God: may they be its witnesses, with courage and creativity and in the power of the Holy Spirit.



Every weekday morning  
at 8:30am



**The next Anointing of the Sick is Friday, January 7, 2022**

The bulletin deadline for 12/26 and 1/2 is December 20th. Thank you for your cooperation.



**Boy Scout Troop 123 would like to extend a hearty thanks to everyone in the parish for participating in our annual wreath sale. The wreath sale is our biggest fundraiser of the year. The monies earned go towards trips and equipment for the scouts. We couldn't do it without all of you.**

**Thank You for supporting Boy Scout Troop 123!**



**The Parish Center is closed from December 23rd (12pm) to January 2nd**



**Over 50 Club**



The Peanut Butter and Jelly Gang are back to having weekly meetings!

We meet every Tuesday at 9:30 in the cafeteria of the school building.

Please bring 2 loaves of bread. We are in need of PEANUT BUTTER, jelly and sandwich bags.

We can also use boxes and disposable table cloths. Many thanks to all that donate their time and energy. Volunteers are always welcome. Please bring a copy of your Covid immunization record as this is a Parish requirement.

Maureen Paladino  
516-984-8419

Call or text with any questions.

We are planning a four day, three night trip to Woodloch Pines Resort in Hawley, Pennsylvania for April 25, 2022-April 28, 2022

There are a few openings for this trip and we cordially invite any parishioners who are interested to join us.

Please contact Mary at 516-378-1335 for further information.

We wish a Blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year to all our Sacred Heart Family.



### Christmas Mass Schedule

December 24, 2021  
 4pm (Church)  
 4pm (Gym)  
 10pm (Church)

December 25, 2021  
 8am (Church)  
 10am (Church)  
 12pm (Church)

***There is no 5pm Mass on  
 December 25th***

### New Year's Mass Schedule

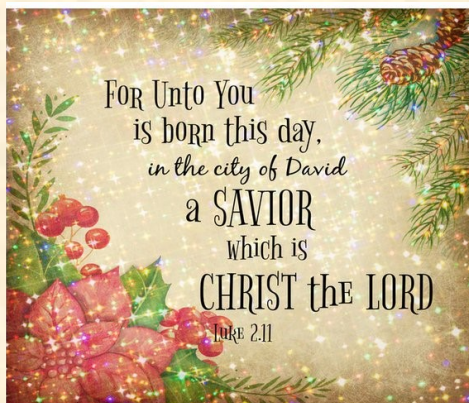
December 31, 2021  
 5pm (Vigil)

January 1, 2022  
 9am  
 12pm

### Feast of Epiphany

Saturday, January 1st  
 5pm

Sunday, January 2nd  
 8am  
 10am  
 12pm  
 5pm



## PARISHIONERS IN THE ARMED FORCES

**Sacred Heart Parish salutes and  
commends to prayer:**

Sgt. Richard DeTommaso, U.S. Army, Korea  
PFC Kendrick McCann, U.S. Army, Korea  
Sgt. First Class Lee Ann Gouveia, U.S. Army  
L CPL Anthony Rusciano, U.S.M.C.  
L CPL Troy Grassi, U.S.M.C., Iraq  
SSgt. Edgar C. Francisco, U.S.M.C.  
Col. James K. Lavine, U.S.M.C.  
Lt. Col. Timothy W. Schnelle, U.S.M.C.  
Pvt. Andrew Reynolds, U.S. Army  
3rd CS P.O. Joseph La Form, U.S. Navy  
L CPL Kevin P. Vaughan, U.S.M.C.  
Major Christopher Darconte, U.S. Air Force  
U.S.M.C. Deployed Aircraft Carrier Iwo Jima  
Sgt. Brandon Furia, U.S.M.C.  
PFC Matthew Macario, U.S. Army,  
Afghanistan  
Lt. James Corino, Army  
Lt. Commander William H. Mohr, Navy  
Amn. 1st Class Daniel Gilroy, U.S.A.F.  
Lt. Daniel T. Lopez, U.S. Air Force  
Captain Patrick O'Sullivan U.S.N.A. U.S.M.C.  
Lt. j. g. Michael Napolitano U.S. Navy  
John Devoti Lt. Col. U.S.M.C.

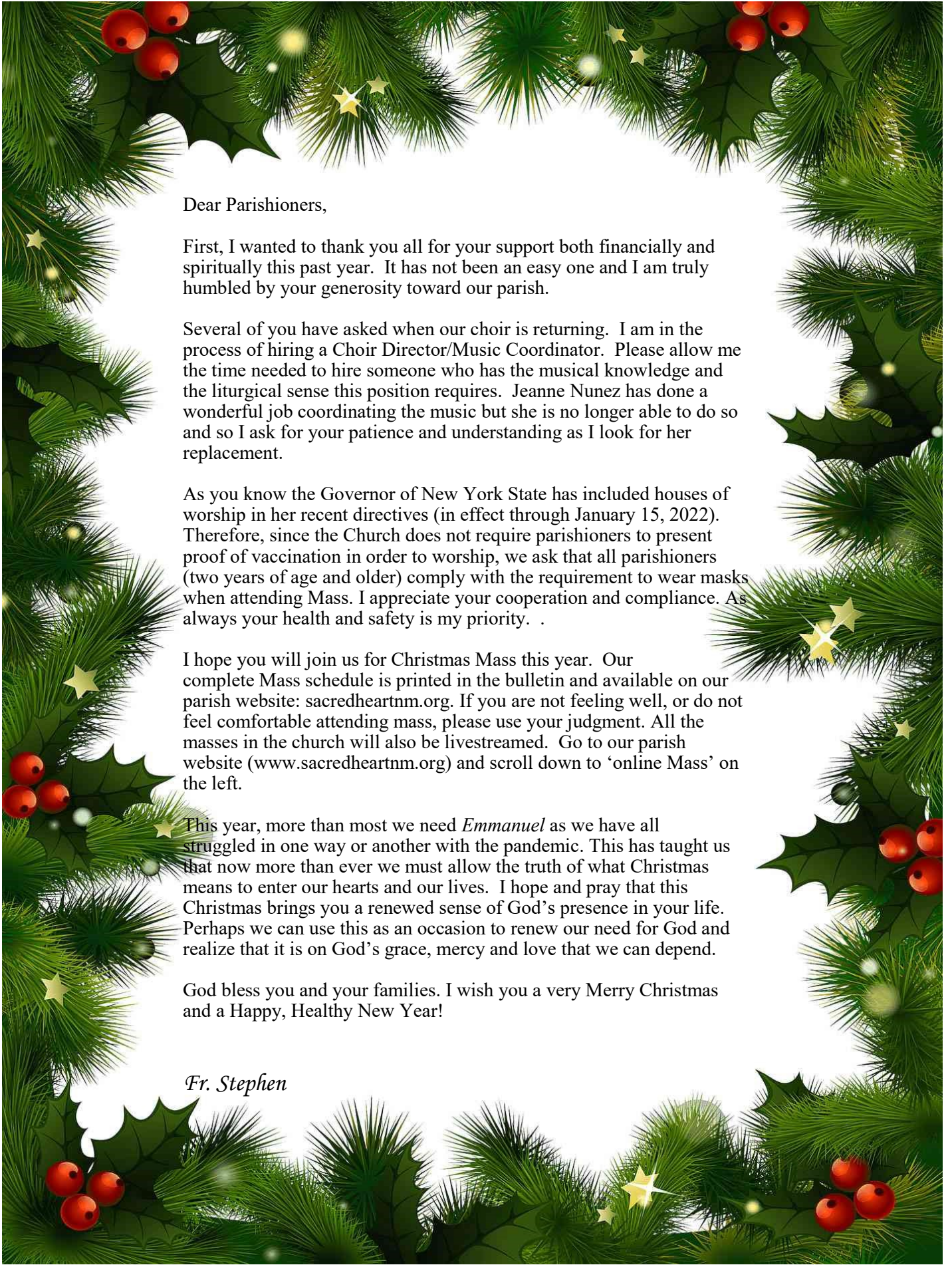
### **Prayer For The Safety of Our Service Men & Women**

Almighty and Eternal God, protect  
these men and women as they  
discharge their duties. Protect them  
with the shield of your strength and  
keep them safe from all evil and harm.  
May the power of your love enable  
them to return home in safety to all  
who love them. May they ever praise  
you for your loving care. We ask this  
through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

## *Sacred Heart Purgatorial Society*

*Teresa & Joseph Sullivan, Helen & Joseph  
Tatarka, Marianne Collins, Patricia A.  
Bove, Caroline & Francis Cacossa,  
Margaret E. Riordan, Joan Fisk,  
Everett Corum, Jr, James J. Stasi, Maureen  
& Robert Murphy, Fred Peruggia,  
Josephine Valenti, Ellen C. Rafter, Donald  
J. Johnson, Eileen Clarke, Dolores Kulich,  
Vera Farrell, James Tannehill,  
William G. Mohr, Shaun Hughes, Edward  
Walsh & Family, Frances Forgione, Lillian  
Milana, Randall Cordero, Teresa  
Sullivan, Joseph Sullivan, Edward Hesse,  
Regina Platt, James Artura, Edward A.  
Kennedy, Carolyn McDonough, Carmel L.  
Carleo, Raymond P. Carleo, James G.  
Dwyer, James P. Soldo, Robert Tom  
Riordan, Henry Darnaud, Stephen J.  
Brigandi, Sr., Ryan Palma, John  
Fitzpatrick, Amesse Furchak, Marlene  
Lawson, Richard Brazenor, Joseph & Dora  
Accurso, Mary & Frank Gandini, Pat  
Darienzo, Jr., Tom and Mary Carroll,  
Brother Hugh Patrick Turley, FMS, Michelle  
Palma Furchak, Charlotte & Joe  
Francomano, John Hursala, Mae & John  
Dugo, Ann Kelly, Margaret, Joseph, Jack &  
Catherine Eschmanns, Joseph Sommer,  
Charles Vaccaro, Epifania Napit, Nancy  
DeStefano, Lester Smith, Camille and  
George Pashalides, Patrick M. Darienzo,  
Thomas J. Maloney, Jack Faust, Theresa  
Reilly Fred J. Cardinale, Thomas McLoone,  
Joseph Massaro, Daniel Contartesi,  
Catherine Contartesi*

*If you would like to enroll someone in our  
Purgatorial Society, please  
call the Parish Center.  
The offering is \$50 per person per year.*



Dear Parishioners,

First, I wanted to thank you all for your support both financially and spiritually this past year. It has not been an easy one and I am truly humbled by your generosity toward our parish.

Several of you have asked when our choir is returning. I am in the process of hiring a Choir Director/Music Coordinator. Please allow me the time needed to hire someone who has the musical knowledge and the liturgical sense this position requires. Jeanne Nunez has done a wonderful job coordinating the music but she is no longer able to do so and so I ask for your patience and understanding as I look for her replacement.

As you know the Governor of New York State has included houses of worship in her recent directives (in effect through January 15, 2022). Therefore, since the Church does not require parishioners to present proof of vaccination in order to worship, we ask that all parishioners (two years of age and older) comply with the requirement to wear masks when attending Mass. I appreciate your cooperation and compliance. As always your health and safety is my priority. .

I hope you will join us for Christmas Mass this year. Our complete Mass schedule is printed in the bulletin and available on our parish website: [sacredheartnm.org](http://sacredheartnm.org). If you are not feeling well, or do not feel comfortable attending mass, please use your judgment. All the masses in the church will also be livestreamed. Go to our parish website ([www.sacredheartnm.org](http://www.sacredheartnm.org)) and scroll down to 'online Mass' on the left.

This year, more than most we need *Emmanuel* as we have all struggled in one way or another with the pandemic. This has taught us that now more than ever we must allow the truth of what Christmas means to enter our hearts and our lives. I hope and pray that this Christmas brings you a renewed sense of God's presence in your life. Perhaps we can use this as an occasion to renew our need for God and realize that it is on God's grace, mercy and love that we can depend.

God bless you and your families. I wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy, Healthy New Year!

*Fr. Stephen*



DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE  
OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

Christmas 2021

To the People of God of the Diocese of Rockville Centre:

On December 1, 2019, Our Holy Father Pope Francis issued *Admirabile Signum*, an Apostolic Letter *On the Meaning and Importance of the Nativity Scene*. It is a beautiful reflection that I draw on every Christmas season and one which I urge you to read and pray.<sup>1</sup>

In it, the Holy Father reminds us that the simple act of arranging our Nativity set links us to the past, opens questions for the present, and orients the future. It is an act that has an existential impact.

Pope Francis says: “Setting up the Christmas creche in our homes helps us to relive the history of what took place in Bethlehem. Naturally, the Gospels remain our source for understanding and reflecting on the event. At the same time, its portrayal in the creche helps us to imagine the scene. It touches our hearts and makes us enter into salvation history as contemporaries of an event that is living and real in a broad gamut of historical and cultural contexts.”

The beautiful scene of parents and grandparents setting up creches together with children and grandchildren is a powerful multi-dimensional experience of catechesis – the teaching and passing on of our Catholic faith and our belief in the Incarnation of Jesus Christ to the next generation.

Parents and grandparents have that wisdom of teaching children and grandchildren how to assemble and situate the creche, but at the same time, they also have the catechetical and relational sensitivity to let children and grandchildren make choices about where the shepherds, the sheep, the three kings are to be placed.

Children are encouraged to place the Holy Family – Mary, Joseph and the Prince of Peace – with their own hands into the center of the creche. How often children then enjoy, sometimes on their own and sometimes with brothers and sisters and family members, moving and interacting with the figurines. How often their biblical imaginations and souls are set on fire with God’s love as they play with their family Nativity sets.

The Holy Father continues: “I would like now to reflect on the various elements of the nativity scene in order to appreciate their deeper meaning. First, there is the background of a starry sky wrapped in the darkness and silence of night. We represent this not only out of fidelity to the Gospel accounts, but also for its symbolic value. We can think of all those times in our lives when we have experienced the darkness of night. Yet even then, God does not abandon us, but is there to answer our crucial questions about the

---

<sup>1</sup> [https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/apost\\_letters/documents/papa-francesco-lettera-ap\\_20191201\\_admirabile-signum.html](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/apost_letters/documents/papa-francesco-lettera-ap_20191201_admirabile-signum.html)

meaning of life. Who am I? Where do I come from? Why was I born at this time in history? Why do I love? Why do I suffer? Why will I die? It was to answer these questions that God became man. His closeness brings light where there is darkness and shows the way to those dwelling in the shadow of suffering (cf. Luke 1:79).”

We can drift through life dodging and repressing these critical existential questions of life. We can live blindly and superficially.

Our Catholic belief in the unity of the Nativity and the Crucifixion, the Creche and the Cross, Bethlehem and Golgotha keeps our lives centered and focused on the things that really count in our short time on earth – the Last Things (Death, Judgment, Heaven and Hell) and a belief in the Eternal Joy of Heaven, our true home.

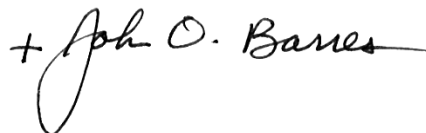
The Holy Father continues to press the existential questions: “The presence of the poor and the lowly in the nativity scene remind us that God became man for the sake of those who feel most in need of his love and who ask him to draw near to them. Jesus, ‘gentle and humble in heart’ (Matthew 11:29), was born in poverty and led a simple life in order to teach us to recognize what is essential and to act accordingly. The nativity scene clearly teaches that we cannot let ourselves be fooled by wealth and fleeting promises of happiness. We see Herod’s palace in the background, closed and deaf to the tidings of joy. By being born in a manger, God himself launches the only true revolution that can give hope and dignity to the disinherited and the outcast: the revolution of love, the revolution of tenderness. From the manger, Jesus proclaims, in a meek yet powerful way, the need for sharing with the poor as the path to a more human and fraternal world in which no one is excluded or marginalized.”

May our prayer, silent contemplation and creative family catechesis of the Nativity scene help us to be instruments of a Gospel revolution of humility, charity, mercy, tenderness, and solidarity with the sick, the poor and the suffering.

May our commitment to “holiness and mission” bless our contemplative Synodal listening and our Eucharistic Revival and Evangelization.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to you and your families!

Sincerely in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "+ John O. Barres". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped initial 'J'.

Most Reverend John O. Barres  
Bishop of Rockville Centre

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