Sacred Heart Parish

THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD ~ DECEMBER 25, 2022

Partnering Parishes Sacred Heart, St. Charles Borromeo (Drexel Hill) and St. Hedwig's Chapel (Chester)

Rev. Msgr. George A. Majoros, M.Div., M.S., Pastor

Rev. Paul Stenson,
Retired Priest in Residence

Deacon John H. Farrell
Permanent Deacon

Sacred Heart Church
316 East Broadway Avenue
Clifton Heights, PA 19018

Rectory
Phone 610-623-0409
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Parish Website:
www.sacredheart-cliftonheights.net

Office Hours
Monday-Friday
8:30AM to 3:30PM
Remotely Monday, Wednesday, Friday
In parish office Tuesday and Thursday

OUR MISSION STATEMENT
To live and grow as a church in the Roman Catholic tradition by devotion to God in worship, doctrine, ministry, and loving service to each other and to the people entrusted to us.

Sunday Schedule Of Masses
Sacred Heart (Vigil) 4:00PM, 7:30AM
St. Hedwig Chapel 9:15AM (Rosary before Mass)
St. Charles (Vigil) 5:30PM, 10:00AM, 4:00PM

Weekdays Masses 8:30AM
Sacred Heart Mon, Tues, Wed
St. Charles Thurs, Fri, Sat

First Friday at St. Charles Borromeo
3:00PM- Chaplet of Divine Mercy
7:00P.M. – Holy Hour

First Saturday at St. Charles Borromeo
8:30AM Morning Mass
Exposition, Devotions, Confession, Benediction

Flame of Love Holy Hour
St. Charles Borromeo 6:30PM Thursday

Holy Day Masses
St. Charles (Vigils) 4:00PM & 7:00PM, 8:30AM
Sacred Heart 12:00 Noon, 7:00PM

Sacrament of Reconciliation Confession Schedule
Sacred Heart 3:00-3:45PM Saturday

St. Hedwig Chapel 9:00AM Sunday

St. Charles Borromeo 4:30-5:15PM before Vigil, 6:30-7:30PM on the Thursday before 1st Friday

St. Charles Borromeo 9:15-10:00AM on the First Saturday of the month

Masses For The Week

Sacred Heart Church

4:00PM (Vigil) Thomas McGehrin Of family

Sunday, December 25 **Christmas Day**

7:30AM Living & Deceased of Sacred Heart

12:00 (Noon) Burns & Ward Families Of Eileen Ward

Monday, December 26

8:30AM Living & Deceased of Sacred Heart

Tuesday, December 27

8:30AM Lillian Pecko Of Henry Grassa & family

Wednesday, December 28

8:30AM Gary Schnell Of wife, Patti

Saturday, December 31

4:00PM (Vigil) Mary Ann Swiatlowski Of Theresa Czerwinski

Sunday, January 1

7:30AM Laura Wufsus Of husband, Mark

St. Hedwig's Chapel

Sunday, December 25 **Christmas Day**

9:15AM Antoinette Wardynski

Sunday, January 1

9:15AM Catherine & Walter Kowalski

(January open Mass Intentions on page 4)

Sacred Heart and St. Charles Borromeo Churches will be open Monday through Friday 9:00A.M to 12:00 Noon

Candles for the Month of December
Sacred Heart

+Ernesto Lelii & Tina Mori
+ Thomas McGehrin
- Health of Kristin Curry

Flame of Love Holy Hour
Thursday evenings
6:30-7:30PM
Saint Charles Borromeo Church

All are welcome to join as we pray for the intentions of the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

This bulletin went to print early!

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Mass Celebrants Weekend of December 24-25

Sacred Heart
4:00PM Fr. McGowan (Vigil)
7:30AM Fr. McGowan
12 Noon Msgr. Majoros

St. Hedwig's Chapel
9:15AM Fr. Stenson

St. Charles Borromeo
4:00PM Fr. Sperger (Vigil)
Midnight Fr. Stenson
10:00AM Fr. McGowan

Mass Celebrants Weekend of December 31-January 1

Sacred Heart
4:00PM Fr. Stenson
7:30AM TBD

St. Hedwig's Chapel
9:15AM TBD

St. Charles Borromeo
5:30PM Msgr. Majoros
10:00AM TBD
4:00PM TBD

Celebrants Are Subject To Change

New Year's Eve
Saturday, December 31, 2022

The Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God, a Holy Day of Obligation

St. Charles Borromeo Church
4:30-5:15PM- Confessions
5:30P.M. Vigil in Church

Sacred Heart
3:00-3:45P.M. Confessions
4:00P.M. Vigil

New Year's Day
Sunday, January 1, 2023

The Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God, a Holy Day of Obligation

Sacred Heart Church
7:30A.M.

St. Hedwig Chapel
9:15AM

St. Charles Borromeo Church
10:00A.M
4:00P.M

Christmas 2022

Reflection by Rev. Leonard N. Peterson

Bright sunshine on a beautiful October afternoon fills my window as I set about writing this Christmas Reflection. That's the way it goes when one has deadlines to meet. But I had around me enough of those gift Christmas cards sent by many charitable groups every Autumn to set the right mood.

As I rummaged through my Christmas file to find something different for you, when what to my wondering eyes should appear but a 50-year-old document I forgot I had! It was produced so long ago that the paper has taken on a tinge of tan. It was typewriter produced, using what was then the best technology available. The paper was no less than the official stationery of Cardinal O'Hara High School in Springfield, Delaware County, PA, where yours truly was halfway through my third year of teaching teens.

The piece was entitled "Christmas Liturgy, 1972," which sounds so long ago and far away. I vaguely remember being asked to compose the priest's prayers for a Liturgy prayed by the whole school a few days before the holiday break (it still being officially Advent). Here below I present for your Christmas reflection the Preface for that Mass that I composed way back then, mostly as I wrote it, except for a bit of updated references to the war in Ukraine, and the natural disasters of devastating wildfires, floods and famine in our present world of 2022.

"It is truly right and absolutely just, that we give You thanks and praise, Loving Father, for the joys of Christmas, soon to be represented on this altar.

Those joys depend not on human effort to bring them about. If they did, the effort would be cut short by the sadness of an unjust war waged by a proud and stubborn dictator; devastating destruction of people's homes by fire and flood; of crowded prisons; of sad orphans; the troubled sick and the lonely old. Only God can be dependable to spread real and true joy.

We truly believe that Christmas is 'The Mass of Christ', in which He began the offering of Himself in a wooden manger on a bed of straw, only newly emerged from the womb of Mary our Blessed Virgin Mother. That same offering of His would climax on a Roman cross of wood. A glorious Resurrection would follow, on a day that outranks even Christmas.

For this generosity of God, all people can be deeply grateful. They can also rejoice that the Word of Promise grew to be the Man of action and the God of compassion.

The angels were there, along with His holy parents Mary and Joseph. They accompanied the launch of His new outlook; a new world of bursting Hope. And so we join in with their hymn of praise for all to hear, by singing 'Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might…"

I trust that these mostly half-century old words of mine, now presented here via a gadget called a "Word Processor," will help bring Christmas peace to you and yours.

Say the Word

"Who would like to read the next paragraph?" is a common question in a classroom, and one that can yield surprising answers. You might expect that the students who are the best readers would be the first to raise their hands, but that's not always the case. If you add in having them read in front of a larger group of people, like at a Christmas Program, you get even more interesting responses. Some quiet students pale at the thought of reading in front of a crowd, but others will give it their best with a little encouragement. Children with difficulty reading, but who like to be up in front of others, may be willing to overcome the challenges for the reward of the positive feedback. Some students who read well might not be interested in reading out loud, or might just prefer to take a more receptive role.

I was thinking about this recently as I looked at a Christmas card showing the shepherds adoring the Babe of Bethlehem. Why did God send the angels to the shepherds? Maybe because they responded right away, without hesitation, to go see Jesus, and then they went out and shared the good news with all they met. Would I do the same? Do I do the same? I have had the Good News told to me (no angels, alas:) and have encountered Jesus (in Word and Sacrament). Am I going out and telling others about it? If you would like to share the Good News, but are unsure about how to do so, keep an eye out for the upcoming School of Missionary Discipleship this spring. In the meantime, read the Christmas story from the Gospel according to St. Luke, gaze at a Nativity Scene, and ask the shepherds to pray for you to have the same willingness to respond that they had.

Prayers for PREP

Babe of Bethlehem, as You called the shepherds to Your side, please call me into Your presence and then send me out to the world. May I share Your love with a child in our parish this Christmas season. Shepherds of Bethlehem, pray for us. Amen.

Thank you to all those parishioners who have donated so generously to the Stewardship/Block mailing.
The definition of Stewardship is giving of your Time, Talent and Treasure. Each donation, whatever it may be, is very much appreciated. If you haven't already returned your donation, please do so as soon
as this is the final week in December.

March for Life 2023 The Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) announces the 2023 March for Life. Mark your calendar for Friday, **January 20, 2023** for the 50th Annual March for Life in Washington, DC. The March will begin following a rally on the Mall at noon. Although Roe v. Wade has been overturned and has allowed more freedom at the state level to enact pro-life laws, there is still a need for prayer and advocacy at the national level. The goals of these continued national efforts are not only to change laws, but to change hearts and minds to usher in a culture of life. Please visit MarchForLife.org to learn more.

Winter Lotto ~ January 1, 2023 to Ash Wednesday
Sacred Heart chances are $25.00 each. You choose a 3-digit number of your liking and watch the evening PA Lottery Drawing to see if you are a winner. These make a great Christmas or Birthday gift! ***Thank you for supporting all the fundraisers at Sacred Heart, St. Charles Borromeo and St. Hedwig's Chapel. It is a great help!***

Extra forms in the church vestibule!

Cold & Flu Season
and Attending Mass

We would never ask anyone to not attend Mass but since we are under harsh circumstances these days people feeling ill or having a nagging cough might consider staying home until they feel better in order not to spread sickness, especially to our seniors. **At the Sign of Peace** refrain from shaking hands if you haven't felt well or feel you may be getting sick! ***We wish all our parishioners good health so they can attend Mass weekly***.

Open Mass Intentions Sacred Heart in January
January 7, 14, 15, 18, 24, 25, 29

Open Mass Intentions St. Hedwig in January
January 8, 15, 22, 29

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Reflection
We celebrate the birth of Jesus, our teacher and our guide to understanding how to live in God's love. How do you celebrate the true meaning of Christmas? How does God's love touch your life?

Prayer
God, our waiting is finished. Your gift of love is born again in all of our hearts today. May the light of your hope, peace, joy and love burn brightly in our hearts all the days of our lives. Amen.

Holiday Food Drive at St. Hedwig's
Special thanks to all our parishioners and friends who donated so generously to the annual Thanksgiving & Christmas food drives. We know this was a rather difficult year for everyone so God bless you. All donations will go to the Missionaries of Charity in Chester.

15th Anniversary of Man Up Philly!

Saturday March 4, 2023 will be the 15th Man Up Philly Conference and we are going back to our roots to the Campus of Cardinal O'Hara at the St John Vianney Hall Theater where it all started. Don't miss this opportunity to bring a friend and hear inspiring speakers for a day of reflection and growth!

Early Bird Registration is Now Open!

ONGOING SCAM ALERT!
Continue to be aware

Thieves and scammers continue to send e-mails and text messages claiming to be from the pastor or parish staff asking for gift cards because of an emergency.

Msgr. Majoros would never send anything like this.

These are fake. Please NEVER respond to them.

FORMED provides the very best Catholic content from more than 60 organizations to help parishes, families and individuals explore their faith anywhere. Supporting thousands of movies, children's programs, ebooks, audio, parish programs and studies direct to your browser, mobile or connected device.

To join as a **new user** go to **formed.org** Select ***sign up*** and then choose ***I belong to a parish or organization*** then type in St. Charles Borromeo R 19026 and follow the easy instructions. If you are **already a member** of formed all you need to do is type in your email address and you are automatically signed in. **You no longer need a password**

Dear Church Family **Sunday, December 25, 2022**

As we celebrate the Nativity of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, allow me to share some basic truths of this joyful mystery of our faith! We believe that God so loved the world that He sent Jesus, His Only-Begotten Son, …for us and for our salvation.

What does the name Jesus mean? Given by the angel at the time of the Annunciation, the name means "God saves." The name expresses His identity and His mission "because he will save his people from their sins" (Matthew 1:21). Peter proclaimed that "there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved" (Acts 4:12).

Why is Jesus called "Christ"? "Christ" in Greek, "Messiah" in Hebrew, means the "anointed One." Jesus is the Christ because He is consecrated By God and anointed by the Holy Spirit for His redeeming mission. He is the Messiah awaited by Israel, sent into the world by the Father. Jesus accepted the title of Messiah but He made the meaning of the term clear: "come down from heaven" (John 3:13), crucified and then risen, He is the Suffering Servant who gave "his life as a ransom for many" (Matthew 20:28). From the name Christ comes our name as Christians.

Why did the Son of God become Man? For us and for our salvation, the Son of God became incarnate in the womb of the Virgin Mary by the power of the Holy Spirit. He did so to reconcile us sinners with God, to have us learn of God's infinite love, to be our model of holiness and to make us "partakers of the divine nature" (2 Peter 1:4).

What does the word "Incarnation" mean? The Church calls the mystery of the wonderful union of the divine and human natures in the one divine Person of the Word the "Incarnation." To bring about our salvation the Son of God was made "flesh" (John 1:14) and became truly man. Faith in the Incarnation is a distinctive sign of the Christian faith.

Jesus is inseparably true God and true man in the unity of His divine Person. As the Son of God, who is "begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father," He was made true man, our brother, without ceasing to be God, our Lord.

A Christmas Prayer

Dear Jesus, You have come to save! As we celebrate Your holy birth, help me to magnify the light of Your love in the lives of everyone I meet, especially the poor and forgotten.
May I be ever ready to walk with neighbors in their suffering, mindful of both spiritual and material needs, so as to restore hope for their tomorrows.
May I never fail in thanksgiving for the countless blessings You have bestowed on me, especially the gift of salvation won for all through Your Passion, Death and Resurrection.
I pray, come and be Emmanuel for me, now and forever, Amen.

THE CHRISTMAS SEASON--begins on Saturday evening, December 24th and extends through to January 9, 2022, the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord.

December 26th through 31st is the Regular Daily Mass Schedule

Please see the Mass schedule for New Years Eve and New Years Day on page 2 of this bulletin

Have a Happy and Blessed New Year in 2023!

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GOOD STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE

Please accept my grateful appreciation for your generous support of our parishes through your consistent use of your Weekly Church envelopes, online giving, your special Christmas offering, and your donation to the Annual Stewardship Appeal of Treasure (the former Block Collection). May God reward your goodness! *Parishioners who are preparing their taxes may wish a record of their contributions for the year 2022 by calling or emailing the rectory offices after January 15, 2023 and request a copy of your contributions for 2022.*

YEAR END GIVING: It is never too late to make an end of the year tax deductible contribution to one of our Partnering Parishes or the Parish Memorial Fund in memory of a deceased loved one.

May the Lord bless you on this Christmas!
Monsignor George A. Majoros, Pastor

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