

Sacred Heart Parish

THE SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD ~ JANUARY 1, 2023

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

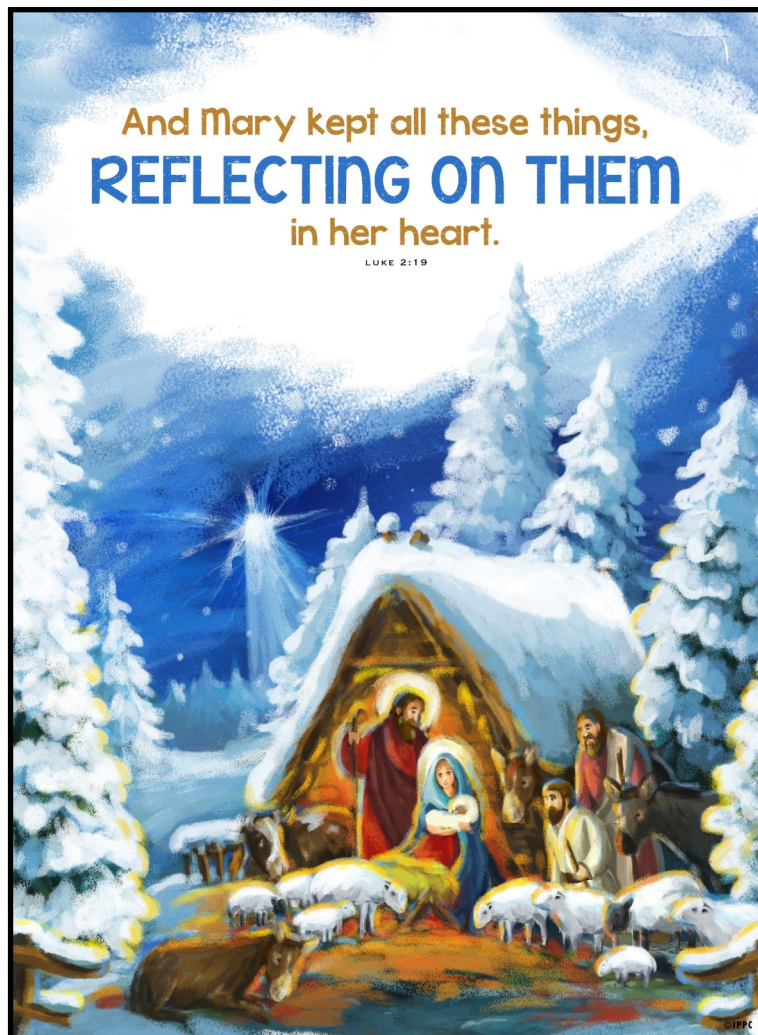
Sacred Heart Church
316 East Broadway Avenue
Clifton Heights, PA 19018

Rectory
Phone 610-623-0409
Fax 610-623-2926
E-mail sacredheartchurch@rcn.com
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) Mary Ann Swiatlowski Of
Theresa Czerwinski

Sunday, January 1

7:30AM Laura Wufsus Of husband, Mark

Monday, January 2

8:30AM Living & Deceased of Sacred Heart

Tuesday, January 3

8:30AM The Holy Souls

Wednesday, January 4

8:30AM Msgr. Francis Urbanowicz Of Family

Saturday, January 7

4:00PM (Vigil)

Sunday, January 8

7:30AM Brahim Razanjan

St. Hedwig's Chapel

Sunday, January 1

9:15AM Catherine & Walter Kowalski

Sunday, January 8

9:15AM Open Intention

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 January Sacred Heart

+Ernesto Lelii & Tina Mori



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.*

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

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

Mass Celebrants Weekend of December 31-January 1

Sacred Heart

4:00PM Fr. Stenson

7:30AM Msgr. Majoros

St. Hedwig's Chapel

9:15AM Msgr. Majoros

St. Charles Borromeo

5:30PM Msgr. Majoros

10:00AM Fr. Stenson

4:00PM Fr. Stenson



Mass Celebrants Weekend of January 7-8

Sacred Heart

4:00PM Fr. Anderson

7:30AM Msgr. Majoros

St. Hedwig's Chapel

9:15AM Fr. Stenson

St. Charles Borromeo

5:30PM Fr. Stenson

10:00AM Fr. Sperger

4:00PM Msgr. Majoros



Celebrants Are Subject To Change

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



Taking down the church decorations Monday January 9th at 9:30AM

*(If there is a funeral we will decorate after the service.)
"Many hands make light work"
Thank you!*

The Archdiocesan Rosary on Zoom **MONDAYS at 8PM.**
Pray the Rosary weekly.

Visit phillymissions.org for the link and more info.

This bulletin went to print early

Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Reflection by Rev. Leonard N. Peterson

Have you “pondered” anything lately? That means, have you thought really deeply and long over certain happenings in your life? That could refer to conversations, concepts presented to you, or any number of ideas that came to your mind. True pondering requires a prior attention, a certain “full bore” listening to someone else, and not any distracted half-hearing.

For example, a known dullard of your acquaintance might have been boring you to death describing his medical experiences so that your mind drifted and you started planning your lunch as he rattled on. You certainly were not pondering.

Another non-example of pondering might be your strong focus on the wrecks of a highway accident and the distraught faces of the victims by the road, so much so that you missed the warning about a dangerous physical problem your doctor just pronounced. You were not pondering over the doctor’s words.

But there was that announcement by your doctor amid what you thought was a routine examination when she said: “Such and such is a quite common occurrence for someone your age.” “Wow! What does that mean, and have I suddenly arrived at that age?” Later, driving home or sitting in your recliner, you start to ponder. You ponder over that and what it means for your immediate future and beyond.

Pondering admittedly takes up time and leads to an inner perspective of mind and heart about this adventure we call “life.” Well did St. Luke write about Our Blessed Lady’s reaction to news about her Son as reported by local shepherds.

Mary knew nine months prior that her Child was unique and special. After all, wasn’t that what the Archangel who called himself Gabriel had told her? Then there were the difficult moments when she had to break the news to St. Joseph. Now, after the Child’s birth, still more angels had “gone public,” as we might say, with their news about the Child for the unsuspecting shepherds. Mary did not cry or protest, much less contradicted the shepherd-reporters. She just pondered.

We are amid the fast-paced days of the Christmas season. Celebrating, visiting one another, strengthening family ties. This past week, the Liturgy put us on an emotional “roller coaster” attached to Christmas week. St. Stephen’s martyrdom gave us a jolt on the 26th. Two days later, the awful slaughter of the Holy Innocent babies by King Herod’s brutes. All that and more.

So I pondered a bit myself this past week. That led me to ask you to “steal” some moments in the weeks ahead and many more times in the New Year, to ponder what happens to you. It’s one healthy and spiritually profitable way to do what Our Mother Mary did all her earthbound days enroute to heaven.

God love you and give you His peace all through 2023!

Say the Word

“Thank you, Sister. My daughter was so happy about the Nativity play. She got the part she really wanted.” I was happy to hear that the Level 2 catechist (and Nativity Play Planner Extraordinaire) had hit gold on assigning parts. It’s a tricky business. Sometimes everyone wants to be a shepherd, or a king, or the Blessed Virgin Mary. In one of our parish families, it was a tradition for each of their children to be the donkey when they were in Level 2. Other years, no one wants to be a donkey! Little Nora was happy to be a sheep, and was even asked her to blow out the candle on the cake for Baby Jesus, because she was close to the cake when I put it down in front of his crib.

It is important to realize that each of us has his own part to play, and without that part, the whole is not complete. As St. Paul said, “If the whole body were an eye, where would the sense of hearing be?” As we enter a new calendar year and celebrate Mary, as Mother of God, let us ask Mary to help us to rejoice in the gifts God has given us and the gifts he has given to others. Let’s start out this year with gratitude!

Prayers for PREP

Thank you, Father, for the gift of Your Son, Jesus, and for all the gifts and talents you have given me. Mary, thank you for using the gifts God gave you to help Jesus come into the world. Please help me to use the special gifts of faith, hope, and love this year and to help others to recognize the gifts you have given them, as well! Amen.

The Origin of the Twelve Days of Christmas

You're all familiar with the Christmas song, "The Twelve Days of Christmas" I think. To most it's a delightful nonsense rhyme set to music. But it had a quite serious purpose when it was written. It is a good deal more than just a repetitious melody with pretty phrases and a list of strange gifts. Catholics in England during the period 1558 to 1829, when Parliament finally emancipated Catholics in England, were prohibited from ANY practice of their faith by law - private OR public. It was a crime to BE a Catholic. "The Twelve Days of Christmas" was written in England as one of the "catechism songs" to help young Catholics learn the tenets of their faith - a memory aid, when to be caught with anything in *writing* indicating adherence to the Catholic faith could not only get you imprisoned, it could get you hanged, or shortened by a head - or hanged, drawn and quartered, a rather peculiar and ghastly punishment I'm not aware was ever practiced anywhere else. Hanging, drawing and quartering involved hanging a person by the neck until they had almost, but not quite, suffocated to death; then the party was taken down from the gallows, and disemboweled while still alive; and while the entrails were still lying on the street, where the executioners stomped all over them, the victim was tied to four large farm horses, and literally torn into five parts - one to each limb and the remaining torso. The songs gifts are hidden meanings to the teachings of the faith. The "true love" mentioned in the song doesn't refer to an earthly suitor, it refers to God Himself. The "me" who receives the presents refers to every baptized person. The partridge in a pear tree is Jesus Christ, the Son of God. In the song, Christ is symbolically presented as a mother partridge which feigns injury to decoy predators from her helpless nestlings, much in memory of the expression of Christ's sadness over the fate of Jerusalem: "Jerusalem! Jerusalem! How often would I have sheltered thee under my wings, as a hen does her chicks, but thou wouldst not have it so..."

The other symbols mean the following:

2 Turtle Doves = The Old and New Testaments

3 French Hens = Faith, Hope and Charity, the Theological Virtues

4 Calling Birds = the Four Gospels and/or the Four Evangelists

5 Golden Rings = The first Five Books of the Old Testament, the "Pentateuch", which gives the history of man's fall from grace.

6 Geese A-laying = the six days of creation

7 Swans A-swimming = the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit, the seven sacraments

8 Maids A-milking = the eight beatitudes

9 Ladies Dancing = the nine Fruits of the Holy Spirit

10 Lords A-leaping = the ten commandments

11 Pipers Piping = the eleven faithful apostles

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.*

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

Prayerfully consider your Offertory Gift as your act of praise to God for all HE has given you.

Sacred Heart- December 18, 2022

Sunday Envelopes	37	\$1,287.00
Loose		<u>102.00</u>
Total		1,389.00
Loose		107.00
Christmas Flowers		5.00

St. Hedwig - December 18, 2022

Sunday Envelopes	21	\$704.00
Loose		<u>95.00</u>
Total		799.00
Maintenance		25.00

Thank you to all who have given so generously as we struggle to make ends meet please pray about what you might be able to do, given your own needs, to continue your parish support by mailing in your weekly offerings or use the electronic giving in order to keep our parish operating.

PRAY FOR WORLD PEACE

Dear Church Family

January 1, 2023

This New Year's Day falls on a Sunday (The Lord's Day) and the Octave of Christmas, as we celebrate the Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God, seeking her help and protection for our families, Church and world. It is also the World Day of Prayer for Peace. Truly, this is a wonderful day, in a wonderful Christmas Season, to begin the new calendar year of 2023.

The Second Vatican Council, in the Constitution of the Church in the Modern World, said: "The Father of mercies willed that the Incarnation should be preceded by assent on the part of the predestined mother, so that just as a woman had a share in bringing about death, so also a woman should contribute to life. This is pre-eminently true of the Mother of Jesus, who gave to the world the Life that renews all things, and who was enriched by God with gifts appropriate to such a role. It is no wonder then that it was customary for the Fathers to refer to the Mother of God as all holy and free from every stain of sin, as though fashioned by the Holy Spirit and formed as a new creature. Enriched from the first instant of her conception with the splendor of an entirely unique holiness, the virgin of Nazareth is hailed by the heralding angel, by divine command, as "full of grace" (cf. Lk. 1:28), and to the heavenly messenger she replies: "Behold the handmaid of the Lord, be it done unto me according to thy word" (Lk. 1:38). Thus the daughter of Adam, Mary, consenting to the word of God, became the Mother of Jesus. Committing herself whole-heartedly and impeded by no sin to God's saving will, she devoted herself totally, as a handmaid of the Lord, to the person and work of her Son, under and with him, serving the mystery of redemption, by the grace of the Almighty God (no. 56)."

Again, the Council stated, many "of the early Fathers [of the Church] gladly assert[ed]... in their preaching: "the knot of Eve's disobedience was untied by Mary's obedience: what the virgin Eve bound through her disbelief, Mary loosened by her faith" (ibid, no 56).

As we begin 2023, we pray that she who is sinless can help us to sin less and grow in our faith, so that inspired by her virtues, we may enrich our families, Church and World with the joy of loving her Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ!

STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE-----YOUR "THANK YOU" TO GOD

Please accept my grateful appreciation for your generous support of our parish through your **consistent use** of your **Sunday Church envelopes**, your **special Christmas offering**, and your donation to the **Annual Stewardship Appeal**. May God reward your goodness! Parishioners who are preparing their taxes may wish a record of their contributions for the year 2022 Please notify the rectory office after January 15, 2023 and request a copy of your Church contributions.

YEAR END GIVING: It is never too late to make an end of the year tax deductible contribution to one of the following areas: Educational Scholarships for our children; and or, a Memorial Fund in memory of a deceased loved one.

May the Lord bless you in this New Year!

Monsignor George A. Majoros, Pastor