



Tonight, Sunday, is our Advent Reconciliation Service at 7:00 p.m. We should have six priests to hear confessions for as long as it takes for everyone to have a chance. Please

know that this will be the last opportunity at Sacred Heart to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation before Christmas. The Code of Canon Law does require everyone to celebrate the sacrament at least once a year. Personally, I think that is rather lenient . . . when you think back on all the sins of one's life in a year's time. I try to convince people to celebrate the sacrament once a month. Those that do that are leading much better and holier lives; because, every thirty days or so, they are evaluating how they are living, and seeking God's forgiveness and strength. The ones going to confession every month are conquering their sinfulness much more than those that don't. Trust me . . . the Sacrament works! It gives great strength to us to become stronger and holier people, and not give in so easily to sin. Please know and accept also, that *the only ones who can receive the Eucharist are those that are in a "state of grace"*. With all due respect, if someone hasn't received absolution from the Sacrament of Reconciliation for a long, long time, *they are certainly NOT in a state of grace, and should not receive the Eucharist until they are*. That is why we have the Sacrament on 51 Saturdays a year . . . so that people can be in God's grace enough to receive the Eucharist at the Sunday/Saturday liturgy. For those that haven't gone for a while . . . take a chance! Enjoy the grace of God! Let go of your sin, and allow yourself to be renewed! It would make for a wonderful Christmas!

The Fourth Week of Advent begins this weekend, and lasts until December 24<sup>th</sup>. When the 4:30 Mass begins on Christmas Eve, *then* the Christmas season begins, and it lasts until the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord on January 11<sup>th</sup>. In that time, we should all be in the great celebration of the birth of the Lord Jesus Christ into our world, and into our very hearts, minds, and souls! So, keep the songs going and keep the tree up until the 11<sup>th</sup>!!

We will have rather large crowds at the Christmas masses to be sure. For those that attend Mass every week, and will probably be reading this . . . you may want to get there early, before the "annual crowd" comes and takes all the good seats!! If you are bringing guests, please remind them to **leave their cell phones in the car!!!** Last year was wonderful! Not a single phone went off at any Christmas Mass! Let's see if we can do it again . . . for the rest of our lives!!

Please don't be offended, but as in previous years, Fr. Simmons and I are very conscious of our health, and are both constantly working hard at exercising and keeping our weight in control. So, please . . . *do not drop off cookies or cakes or other Christmas "goodies" to the rectory*. We will not be keeping them, but giving them away. We would truly appreciate if you would give those goodies to other people in your families. Feel free to put our names in your Will, or let us drive your cars while you go to Florida over the winter, but we would rather "pass" on the cookies.

As in previous years, and in order to give our staff a well-deserved break over the Christmas holiday, **the Rectory office will be CLOSED from DECEMBER 24<sup>TH</sup>, and RE-OPEN ON MONDAY, JANUARY 5<sup>TH</sup>**. I will be around the whole time for emergencies, funerals, and hospital visits. But, for all "parish business", please hold it until after the 5<sup>th</sup>. If there are any emergencies, you can reach me through the office voicemail

system, which I will be checking regularly.

I hope all of you have a very blessed Christmas season. If there is someone you know that has no one to have Christmas dinner with, maybe there is some room at your family table. Please pray, also, for those families who are having a difficult time, since this may be the first Christmas without a loved one who died this past year. And, say a special prayer for our troops!

Enjoy the Coming of the Christ!

Fr. D.

**WEEKLY COLLECTION REPORT:**

	<b>Dec. 14, 2008</b>	Dec. 16, 2007
Repairs & Improvements	\$158.00	\$144.00
Christmas Flowers	\$699.00	\$195.00
Sacrificial Giving	<b>\$6,258.60</b>	\$6,666.06
Amount Needed	<b>\$7,250.00</b>	
Over/(Short)	<b>(\$991.40)</b>	

(\*includes loose money). Last week, out of 668 families of the parish, 304 envelopes (46%) were used, with an **average** Sacrificial Giving donation of **\$20.59**. Your parish depends on you for your weekly donation. Thanks for your sacrifice.



## CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

**MASSES**

**Christmas Eve - Wednesday, December 24th**  
4:30PM and 12:00 Midnight Mass

A special music program with our Parish choir will begin at 11:30PM. In order to assure minimal interruptions during the performance, we would ask that if you plan to attend this pre-liturgical Christmas presentation, you try to be seated before 11:30PM.

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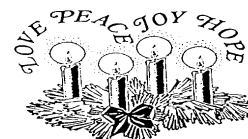
**CHRISTMAS DAY - Thursday, December 25th**  
9:30AM and 11:30AM


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**New Year's Eve - Wednesday, December 31st - 4:30PM**  
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**NEW YEAR'S DAY - Thursday, January 1st - 10:00AM**

Our **Parish Reconciliation Service** will be held today, Sunday, December 21st, at 7:00PM in church. We will have priests available for confession until all are heard. Please join us.



*Mass Intentions  
for the Week* 

**Monday, December 22nd**

8:30 - William Moore - Family

**Tuesday, December 23rd - St. John of Kanty**

8:30 - Communion Service

**Wednesday, December 24th - Christmas Eve**8:30 - **NO MASS****4:30PM and 12:00 Midnight Mass****Thursday, December 25th - The Nativity of the Lord****9:30AM and 11:30AM***All Christmas Masses are for the Parishioners of Sacred Heart Parish***Friday, December 26th - St. Stephen**

8:30 - Dom and Mary Abate - Lena Alo

**Saturday, December 27th - St. John the Apostle**

4:30 - For the Parishioners of Sacred Heart Church

**Sunday, December 28th - The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph**

9:30 - Bob and Ann Ohmer - Family

11:30 - Dec'd of the Fleming and Henriksen Families - Family

**Priest Schedule for December 27th and 28th****Saturday, 4:30PM - Fr. Detisch****Sunday, 9:30AM and 11:30AM - Fr. Detisch**

The Sanctuary Candle is burning in memory of †**Elmer Spadacene** by Jerry and Faye Maras.

The Altar Bread and Wine are given in the †*Spirit of the Season* from a grateful parishioner.

**Scripture Readings for Next Week**


Genesis 15: 1-6; 21: 1-3 Hebrews 11: 8, 11-12, 17-19 Luke 2: 22-40

**ALTAR BREAD AND WINE  
SPONSORSHIPS ARE NOW AVAILABLE**

From the beginning of our Church, bread and wine have been brought forward by the people for the celebration of the Eucharist. Many even brought bread and wine from home. It was customary to think of every gift to the Church and the poor as a gift to God and to designate it as an offering. As an observant Jew, Jesus used bread and wine to commemorate the Passover meal with His disciples. Thus, the most sacred food for the Jewish Passover Meal has become the very essence of our Eucharistic meal.

A parishioner saw this at other Churches and thought it would be a good idea to start here at Sacred Heart and Pastoral Council agreed. We are now accepting sponsorships/offering for the altar bread and wine used at the weekend Mass. It is the same idea as someone sponsoring the Sanctuary Candle. Every weekend would be available. You could use the offering as a memorial or remembrance or special intention, just like a Mass or the Sanctuary Candle. If you are interested in sponsoring the Altar Bread and Wine, stop by the Parish Office or put an envelope marked "Altar Bread and Wine" in the collection basket. Please remember to put the person who it is in memory or honor of and who it is from so we can publish the names in the bulletin. The cost is \$25 and thank you for your continued prayers and support.

*Christmas Blessings*

 *In Our Parish*

**Sunday** - Our **Parish Reconciliation Service** will be held at 7:00PM in church. We will have priests available for confessions until all are heard. Please join us.

**Monday** - **Boy Scout Meeting** at 6:00PM in the audi.

**Tuesday** - The **Rosary** will be prayed at 2:00PM in church.

**Friday** - Church Cleaning **Team #7** (Rosemary Shewan's team) is scheduled for Friday, December 26th.

**YOUTH GROUP NEWS** - Prepare ye the

way of the Lord! Sacred Heart Youth Group would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas.

This is truly a blessed season to spend time with our families and parish community. The youth

group would like to announce that we will be hosting a retreat on January 22nd from 3:30pm-10:30pm with NET (National Evangelization Teams). NET is a ministry of graduated high school teens who sacrifice one year of their life to evangelize to their peers around the USA. They will be in the Erie Diocese for only one week this year and we will be hosting them for an evening retreat. The retreat will be a very powerful and moving retreat geared towards all 7-12 graders ([www.netusa.org](http://www.netusa.org)). Please e-mail Jesse at [catholicconnection@g.mail.com](mailto:catholicconnection@g.mail.com) if you would like to make this retreat or if you have any questions. Due to the Holiday season, the next Sacred Heart youth group will meet on January 8th from 7:00pm-8:30pm. Peace. Jesse

***Looking for a Different Christmas Gift????***

Why not purchase some grocery coupons from the church? We have grocery coupons available from Tops, Giant Eagle and Quality Markets. These coupons come in various denominations from \$5 to \$100 and the church receives a certain percent of all we sell. The grocery coupons can also be used to purchase prescription medicine, and at Giant Eagle and Tops, you can purchase gasoline with the coupons.



Please remember in your prayers our departed:

†**Ronald Kubeja,**

†**David Squeglia,** brother of Dick Squeglia  
and †**Alex Verno.**

Today is your last chance to see "A CHRISTMAS CAROL" at the H. O. Hirt Auditorium at the Blasco Library at 2:30PM. Tickets for this show will be available at the door before the show. Make this holiday classic part of your Christmas this year!

