

SACRED HEART OF JESUS CATHOLIC CHURCH

295 Balearic Road
Hot Springs Village, Arkansas 71909

FR. WILLIAM A. ELSER, Pastor

Cell: 501-209-2502 e-mail: frbillelser@gmail.com



Church Office 501-922-2062
Tuesday through Friday
8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

website: www.hvsacredheart.com
e-mail: hvsacredheart@gmail.com
Parish EIN#: 71-0522822

Deacon Larry Lipsmeyer 501 922-3283
Deacon B.J. Bowen 501 831-1742
Deacon Gary Christoff 573 645-6814

MASSES

Tuesday, Thursday, Friday.....	09:00 a.m.
Wednesday.....	04:00 p.m.
First Saturday.....	09:00 a.m.
Saturday Anticipated	04:00 p.m.
Sunday	08:00 a.m.
.....	10:00 a.m.
Holy Day Vigil (with obligation)	as announced
Holy Day.....	09:00 a.m.

PERPETUAL EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

Eucharistic Adoration	All hours
.....	7 days a week

CONFESSION

Tuesday, Thursday, Friday	08:40 to 08:55 a.m.
Wednesday	03:30 to 03:50 p.m.
Saturday	03:15 to 03:45 p.m.

OR by appointment with the Pastor

DECEMBER 15, 2024

GAUDETE SUNDAY

PARISH EVENTS THIS WEEK

Monday	Dec 16
03:00 pm	Family Assistance Meeting, Classroom D
Tuesday	Dec 17
10:00 am	Fit 'n Go Fitness, Lower Hall
11:30 am	Chair Stretch & Balance, Lower Hall
11:30 am	Mat Stretch, Strength & Balance, Upper Hall
02:00 pm	Singles at the DeSoto Club
Wednesday	Dec 18
09:45 am	COR Group, Classroom D
01:00 pm	Singles Hand, Knee & Foot, Upper Hall
01:00 pm	Spades and Table Games, Upper Hall
01:30 pm	Choir Practice
02:30 pm	K of C 3rd Degree O&D Meeting. Classrooms A & B
Thursday	Dec 19
09:30 am	Rosary Makers, Classroom B
10:00 am	Fit 'n Go Fitness, Lower Hall
11:30 am	Chair Stretch & Balance, Lower Hall
11:30 am	Mat Stretch, Strength & Balance, Upper Hall
06:00 pm	COR Group, Classroom D
Friday	Dec 20
09:45 am	Pastoral Council Meeting, Classroom D
Saturday	Dec 21
04:00 pm	Mass
Sunday	Dec 22
08:00 am	Mass
10:00 am	Mass

CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

Sacred Heart will once again offer an opportunity for parishioners and guests to enjoy delicious food and fellowship on Christmas Day in the Lower Hall. Chef Johnna has planned the following menu: garden salad with champagne vinaigrette, slow cooked roast beef with French onion gravy, maple and orange glazed spiral ham, twice baked mashed potatoes, zucchini & yellow squash with tomato gratin, cheddar broccoli casserole, rolls and butter, coffee and tea. For dessert there will be Christmas cookies with Fr. Bill's ice cream. The cost is \$17 per person with payment required at the time of sign up. The sheet is in the Narthex. Write your name on and use the provided envelopes if paying cash. It will be a wonderful gathering with food, fellowship and caroling with family and friends as we celebrate the birth of our Savior.



FOOD BASKET

For those volunteers delivering Christmas Food Baskets, please note that Men's Club members will be available *today, December 15*, from 1-3:00 pm to load your cars. You will need the letter and number ID of your family. The men will load all presents and non-perishable food into your vehicles. Location is the Lower Hall entrance.

ANNUAL MASS OF REMEMBRANCE



The Mass of Remembrance for deceased family and friends of our parishioners as well as Sacred Heart parishioners who died in 2024 will be celebrated Wednesday, December 18 at 4:00 pm. You are invited to bring a framed picture of your loved one(s) and/or put their names in a binder that will be on a table in front of the steps leading to the altar area. Come early to place your loved one's picture on the table and light a small candle that will be in front of the photo. All parishioners are invited and encouraged to participate in this Mass.

CLERGY WELFARE COLLECTION

The collection at all Masses on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day will be dedicated to the Clergy Welfare Fund. This fund provides retirement and health care benefits to retired and infirm priests in and around our diocese. Our priests spend every day of their adult lives as humble and devoted servants, doing God's work and serving us until age or illness calls them to retirement. Your contributions to the Clergy Welfare Fund make our priests' retirement possible. Please share with them the generosity that they continue to share with us.

HOLIDAY ARTICLE SUBMISSION DEADLINES

Based on the parameters set by our bulletin publisher and our own holiday schedule, for the *December 28/29* edition, all articles must be to the parish office by 12:00 pm Thursday, December 19. For the *January 4/5* edition please have submissions to the office by Monday, December 23 at 12:00 pm. Thank you!

NOVEMBER REGULAR COLLECTIONS

REGULAR COLLECTIONS	\$55,492.00
BUILDING & MAINTENANCE	\$4,269.00

NOVEMBER SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

CATHOLIC CAMPAIGN FOR HUMAN DEVELOPMENT	\$3,286.00
BABY BOTTLE	\$45.00

2025 CALENDARS - FROM THE DIOCESE

Catholic Extension is experiencing delays in production on the 2025 calendars. "Due to unforeseen circumstances in our production facility and the breakdown of a major binding machine, we are experiencing delivery delays at this time," said Dan Stremel, Senior Director of Calendar Operations. "We are working as quickly as we can to accurately fill all our calendar orders." Orders to be delivered by the end of December or early January.

PASTORS COLUMN

One of the Elser family traditions that I fondly remember is constructing an Advent Wreath, decorating it with pinecones and other greenery, and all of us gathering around it every night of the Advent season, lighting the candles, singing "O Come O Come Emmanuel", saying the collect prayer from each Sunday of Advent, and then taking turns blowing out the candle or candles.

I assumed that this song was a song to be sung at home and at church throughout the Advent season. While this can be the case, the Church promotes it being sung in the most proximate days leading up to the Solemnity of The Nativity of the Lord (December 25) especially during evening prayer from December 17-23. The hymn has its origins over 1200 years ago in monastic life.

Each of the verses refers to a Messianic title for Christ, using biblical imagery drawn from the Old Testament to recall the whole of salvation history and anticipate the birth of Christ. They express the longing we feel for the coming of the Messiah--at Christmas, anew in our hearts, AND at the end of time when he comes in glory. The messianic titles in Latin and English, and the days in which these titles are proclaimed in song are: December 17--O Sapientia (O Wisdom), December 18--O Adonai (O Lord), December 19--O Radix Jesse (O root of Jesse), December 20--O Clavis David (O Key of David), December 21--O Oriens (O Light from the East), December 22--O Rex Gentium (O King of the Nations) , and December 23--O Emmanuel (O God with Us).

The verses of the song "O Come O Come Emmanuel" are variations on these antiphons. The verse that begins "O Come Thou Dayspring" is a reference to Oriens (O Light from the East) and the verse which begins "O Come, Desire of Nations" refers to O Rex Gentium (O King of the Nations).

There is even a hidden message in the first letters of each antiphon--beginning with "E" for Emmanuel and working backwards, the first letter of each antiphon can be assembled to spell the phrase "ero cras" which is Latin for "tomorrow I come" a reference to the fact that the next day is Christmas Eve. Of all the hymns that we are blessed to have and sing in the Advent and Christmas seasons, you now know which has the longest history behind it and appreciate the fact that I choose for us to wait until the Third Sunday of Advent (Gaudete Sunday) to start singing this song at Mass, as the refrain calls us to REJOICE. From that Sunday through the rest of Advent our focus is on preparing for the celebration of the Incarnation, when the Son of God was born into our world!

(I want to thank Deacon Gary for inspiring me to write this pastor's column and providing much of the information I used in composing it)



GIFT OF ADORATION

We need the strength and peace that comes from the Holy Eucharist



We live in an age dominated by fear and anxiety and it's destroying us.

Granted, we can't wholly avoid the troubles around us as long as we live in this vale of tears. We shouldn't let them consume our lives.

"Be still and know that I am God"

Psalm 46:10

Contact Mike Ritch regarding PEA [832 231-7469](tel:832-231-7469)

FORMED

This week on Formed start your walk with Dr. Tim Gray on a journey of renewal to ready your heart for the coming of Christ. Dr. Gray unpacks the meaning of the Advent season and its rich traditions. In twenty-four short presentations he also provides for us "Advent with Tim Gray" which is practical advice for making this Advent your best yet! Join your fellow parishioners and register for your free subscription at FORMED.org.

THANK YOU

I am very grateful and would like to thank all those who prayed for me, sent cards and called throughout my hospitalization.

Jo Ann O'Brien

WOMEN OF
hope

A DAY OF RETREAT
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2025
8:00 A.M. TO 3:00 P.M.

BONUS:
AN EVENING OF PREPARATION
FRIDAY, JANUARY 31, 2025
5:15 P.M. TO 8:00 P.M.

Seating is limited.
Register today!

WomensofHopeAR.org



LADIES OF SACRED HEART CORNER

- Dec. 14/15 LOSH Bake Sale after all Masses in Classrooms A & B
- Registration open for Women of Hope Retreat Jan. 31 & Feb. 1. Go to womenofhope.org for more information.
- To help with the Filly Bags for Oaklawn workers, contact Shailla Harrison at arktraveler594@gmail.com. Filled bags must be returned at the Jan. 13 General Meeting.

Remember to recycle your aluminum beverage cans at the bin in the large church parking lot.

ALTAR FLOWERS

The beautiful altar flowers this weekend are donated by:



- ◇ Marie Radcliffe IMO William Schank

Your parish appreciates your donations of flowers for the altar. Sign-up in the white binder on counter in the Narthex. Questions, call **Judy Gordon**, at 719-930-1121.

ADVENT RECONCILIATION OPPORTUNITIES

In case you couldn't make it for Reconciliation on December 13, the following are opportunities to receive the Sacrament before Christmas. On December 17, St. Mary's in downtown Hot Springs (200 Central Avenue) will have a Reconciliation service at 5:30 pm with individual receipt of the Sacrament. In addition, Fr. Bill will offer the Sacrament on Saturday, December 21 from 1 - 2:00 pm and 4 - 4:45 pm. At Sacred Heart, he always offers Reconciliation weekdays (M, T, Th and F) from 8:40 - 8:55 am and on Wednesday from 3:30 - 3:55 pm.

GIFT BEARERS

The following parishioners have volunteered to bring up the gifts at the 5:00 pm and 10:00 am Masses:



Jess & Mary Lou Hamill
Walter & Judy Free

Sign up to present the gifts at Mass in the white binder located in the Narthex. With questions, call **Marian LaVelle** at 501 209-2435.

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near.

Philippians 4: 4-5

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS CORNER



- ◆ Dec. 15 Parish Breakfast following both Masses
- ◆ Dec. 18 O&D Meeting 2:30 pm, Classrooms A & B
- ◆ Dec. 31 Consecration to the Holy Family
- ◆ Jan, 3 Samaritan Ministries
- ◆ Jan. 7 Bi-monthly Blood Drive
- ◆ Jan. 7 Monthly Council Meeting 5:00 pm, Lower Hall

** To join the Knights call **Bob Ward** at 501 416-1479

START 2025 WITH SOCIABLE SIX!

Our Sociable Six will return for the months of January, February and March 2025. Three couples will be grouped together and then arrange among themselves to share a simple brunch, lunch or dinner at alternate homes, once each month. Participants will enjoy getting to know their fellow parishioners in an informal setting. It is a great way for newcomers to get acquainted with members of our parish family. To sign up call **Nancy or Howard Emery** 815 861-0820 or email emeryfam@hotmail.com. Please provide your name, address, phone number and email address. Final sign up for this session is Dec. 27. You will receive a letter/email with the three couples in your group the first week of January.

JUST FOR TODAY

Just for today, help me, God, to remember that my life is a gift, that my health is a blessing, that this new day is filled with awesome potential, that I have the capacity to bring something wholly new and unique and good into this world.

Just for today, help me, God, to remember to be kind and patient to the people who love me and to those who work with me too. Teach me to see all the beauty that I so often ignore and to listen to the silent longing of my own soul.

Just for today, help me, God, to remember You. Let this be a good day, God, full of joy and love. Amen

IMPORTANT CONTACT INFORMATION

Bereavement Support	Gary Christoff	573-645-6814
Caregiver Support	Evelyn Garrison	501-204-4134
	Maureen Halloran	228-342-0491
Columbarium	Gary Wolfer	501-204-1192
Eucharist: Homebound	Rose Farrell	860-208-9813
Helping Hands	Cathy Wedwick	501-915-8456
	Pat Widlowski	501-922-1395
Perpetual Adoration	Mike Ritch	832-231-7469
Youth Faith Formation	Lou Ann Kemper	469-323-2505

PARISH FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION COUNCIL			PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL		
David Witchger	Grounds, Chair	501-922-9058	Deb Troxel	Education	515-314-6955
Carolyn Bowers	Administration	501-915-8022	Lou Ann Kemper	Education	469-323-2505
Bob Honzik	Stewardship	501-922-2702	Sandy Darnell, Chair	Liturgy	602-418-3414
Murray Claassen	Stewardship	501-908-4346	Marian LaVelle	Liturgy	501-209-2435
Pat Kalisz	Building Complex/ Equipment	630-926-6637	Mark Leslie	Parish Life	501-226-0074
Russ Harrison	Cemetery/ Columbarium	501-922-1767	Becky Jordan	Parish Life	901-605-0333
Larry Lipsmeyer	Cemetery/ Columbarium	501-922-3283	Marge Newburn	Social Justice	501-922-9047
Larry Stein	Finance	501-226-5105	Pietro Tomassi	Social Justice	501-282-4427
			David Witchger	Finance Council	501-922-9058

BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS

Effective immediately, the deadline for submitting bulletin announcements is the **Friday** one week prior to the weekend the bulletin is to be distributed. The deadline time is **12:00 pm**. Please submit announcements to hvsSacredHeart@gmail.com

Sick List - Names in bold italics have been recently added. A * next to last name Indicates non-parishioners.

Parishioners will be placed on the Sick List when a request has been made. To ensure privacy, remember to ask the person needing prayers if (s)he would like to be included in the listing. Recipients will remain on the Sick List for 60 days unless asked to be removed sooner or a request to stay on has been received.

Lew Ake	Theresa Drumwright	Hoang Huynh*	Jeffrey Smith*
Nick Amrhein*	Mary Gerau*	Georgia Janush	Mary Szczepaniak*
Dennis Becker	Ken Gordon	Alice Justus	Robert Steinpreis
Brenda Benson	Tim Gray*	Vivian Le*	Tillie Tylka
Tony Bertrand*	Larry Gremillion	Diane Prescott	Darin Wells*
William J. "Bill" Butler	John Guida	Don Prescott	
Evelyn Donnelly	Joan Hardt	Rustie Seghers	
Tom Donnelly	Betty Hoepner	Audrey Sitkowski	



PRAYER WARRIORS

PRAYERS NEEDED?

We all need a prayer warrior in times of crisis, a critical or dangerous situation that needs serious attention, including emergencies, surgery, imminent death or the loss of a loved one. Our Parish Prayer Warriors are ready to help. Some ninety Parish Prayer Warriors will offer intercessory prayers to God for you and your loved ones at these and other critical times. Please call: **Jim Goodson 204-2494 or Chris Stein, 226-5105** to get your prayers started. They will continue for 30 days, unless cancelled by you, and may be continued by request. You too may become a member of our Parish Prayer Warriors by calling Jim or Chris.



Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you... Jeremiah 29:12

WEEKLY MASS INTENTIONS

Dec 14	4:00 pm	JOLENE COOK	LEW AKE
Dec 15	8:00 am	SUSIE CARDENAS	JAIME CARDENAS
	10:00 AM	BETTY GONDA	MIKE/LINDA GONDA
		SHJ PARISHIONERS	FR. BILL ELSER
Dec 16	9:00 am	MARILYN NUNN	BOB HOFFMANN
Dec 17	9:00 am	JOHN MATTINGLY	M/M RALPH STIEFVATER
Dec 18	4:00 pm	MRS. WILLIE COTTRELL	M/M RICHARD HOEPNER
Dec 19	9:00 am	AL/BARBARA RIETCHECK	PHYLLIS MELENSON
Dec 20	9:00 am	SUSIE CARDENAS	RICK/KAREN MEYERS
Dec 21	4:00 pm	HELEN AKE	LEW AKE
		MARY ZELHOFER	HOLLY HARCK/ JIM MAHAN
Dec 22	8:00 am	SHJ PARISHIONERS	FR. BILL ELSER
	10:00 am	JULIAN TYLKA	DONNA SMITH/ JULIE VITTON

** = LIVING