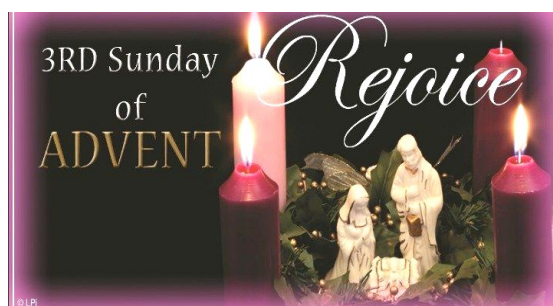




# SACRED HEART of JESUS CATHOLIC CHURCH

❧ Bethlehem • Founded 1833 ❧

December 14, 2025



## Intentions

### Tuesday

**6:30 pm - Mass at Sacred Heart**

*Mass Intention: John Young*

### Wednesday

**8:30 am - Mass at Sacred Heart**

*Mass Intention: Pope Francis (Heavenly Birthday)*

### Thursday

**5:30 pm - Confession at St. Joseph**

**6:30 - Mass at St. Joseph**

*Mass Intention: Rev Robert Kill; Rev. James Risacher*

### Friday

**8:30 am - Mass at St. Joseph**

*Mass Intention: For the People of St. Joseph and Sacred Heart Parishes*

### Saturday

**3:30 pm - Confession at SHJ**

**4:30 pm - Mass at Sacred Heart**

*Mass Intention: Lawrence & Mary Alice Biglin; Yogi & Mark; Rhonda Borgelt*

### Fourth Sunday of Advent

**7:00 am - Mass at St. Joseph**

*Mass Intentions: Lindsey & Lisa Anatra; Charles Marek; Deacon Joe Burkhart*

**8:30 am - Mass at Sacred Heart**

*Mass Intention: Rosemary Sutter; Jeanne, Paul & Kathleen Gosser*

**10:30 am - Mass at St. Joseph**

*Mass Intention: Gladys Burkhart; Francis & Mariann Haines*

## Greetings, Parishioners,

Today is Gaudete Sunday. So, I ask you to Gaudete! (Rejoice!) Gaudete Sunday is the third Sunday of Advent in the Christian liturgical calendar. The name “Gaudete” comes from the Latin word meaning “Rejoice”, and it originates from the entrance antiphon of the Mass for that day. Here are some unique aspects of this day:

- Theme of Joy: While Advent is typically a penitential season marked by reflection and preparation, Gaudete Sunday shifts the tone to joy, as the faithful anticipate the nearness of Christ’s coming at Christmas.
- Liturgical Color: The usual Advent color is violet or purple, symbolizing penance. On Gaudete Sunday, the Church may use rose (pink) vestments instead, reflecting a lightening of the penitential mood. It is one of only two Sundays in the liturgical year (the other being Laetare Sunday in Lent) when rose vestments may be worn.
- Placement in Advent: Gaudete Sunday occurs roughly halfway through Advent, and serves as a moment of encouragement. The waiting is almost over; the light of Christ is near.
- Liturgical Elements: The readings, prayers, and music of the day emphasize rejoicing and hope. For example, the first reading from Isaiah often includes proclamations of joy, and the Gospel frequently highlights the role of John the Baptist in preparing the way for the Lord.

Now that we are in the thick of Advent, we continue preparing. We are called to persevere and prepare for the three comings of Christ:

1. Christ’s Coming in History (The First Coming)  
In Bethlehem, in the Incarnation.
2. Christ’s Coming in Mystery (The Present Coming):  
Here and now — in grace, in the sacraments, and in daily life.
3. Christ’s Coming in Majesty (The Final Coming):  
At the end of time — the Second Coming, when Christ will return as King and Judge.

As we prepare for Jesus, please remember: you can request confession at nearly any time, as long as you give me a couple of hours’ notice. During these confession times, it feels less rushed than during a typical penance service. I enjoy these confessions a little more and appreciate being able to offer them at times that suit you best. (Please feel free to reach out if you would like to meet.)

**In Christ,  
Fr. Jeff**

**COLLECTION:**

Dec. 7, 2025  
5,135.25

Reg. Offertory  
4,655.25

Church Maintenance  
30.00  
General Maintenance  
215.00  
Christmas  
25.00  
Christmas Flowers  
175.00  
Immaculate Conception  
35.00



**Thank You !**

Online  
986.00  
Heart of Bethlehem  
1,625.00

**LITURGICAL MINISTERS**

Wednesday, Dec. 17  
School Mass

**Saturday, Dec. 20**

**MUSIC MINISTER**

*Kevin Willis*

**SERVERS**

*Jude Kemerer*

*Blane Welch*

**OFFERTORY**

*Mike & Carrie Kemerer*

**EXTRAORDINARY****MINISTERS**

*Megan Ratliff*

*Doug & Tammy Lucius*

**USHERS**

*Matthew Gosser*

*Steve Gosser*

**LECTOR**

*Carrie Kemerer*

(Please check Ministry Scheduler Pro  
for the most up to date assignments)

**Sunday, Dec. 21**

**MUSIC MINISTER**

*Kevin & Becky*

**SERVERS**

*Aubrey Timmons*

*Berkley Hoffman*

**OFFERTORY**

*Seth & Maycee Rietschlin Family*

**EXTRAORDINARY****MINISTERS**

*Laura Nold, Marti Keller*

*Dale Schroeder, Stan Cain*

**USHERS**

*Gary Biglin & John Finnegan*

**LECTOR**

*JoAnn Krauseman*

**COUNTERS**

*Olivia Hoffman, Laura Nold  
Veronica Cain*

**Bible Readings for the Week of December 14, 2025**

**Monday** Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a, Ps 25:4-5b, 6, 7bc, 8-9  
**Tuesday** Zep 3:1-2, 9-13, Ps 34:2-3, 6-7, 17-19, 23, Mt 21:28-32  
**Wednesday** Gn 49:2, 8-10, Ps 72:1-4b, 7-8, 17, Mt 1:1-17  
**Thursday** Jer 23:5-8, Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19, Mt 1:18-25  
**Friday** Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a, Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6b, 16-17, Lk 1:5-25  
**Saturday** Is 7:10-14, Ps 24:1-6, Lk 1:26-38  
**Sunday** Is 7:10-14, Ps 24:1-6, Rom 1:1-7, Mt 1:18-24

**BULLETIN SPONSORS OF THE WEEK:**

*Rick, Chad, & Casey Niese*

Office (419) 347-1204  
Cell (419) 295-5901



**MATT STUDER**  
3930 Orr Rd.  
Bloomville

**METAL ROOFING SYSTEMS**

**419-544-6275**

www.kssmetalroofs.com  
kensstandingseamroofs@gmail.com



**Reverend Joseph A. Weigman, Senior Status Priest died on December 6, 2025. Please remember him in your prayers.**

**Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.**

### Retirement Fund for Religious

They gave their lives in service-now they need your help!

For decades, women and men religious have cared for others; by teaching, praying and serving those in need. Many now face retirement without sufficient savings. Your support ensures they receive the care they deserve. Let us now offer them the dignity they have so selflessly granted to others. Your generosity today is not just a donation-it's a way of thanking them for their lifelong service. Please give to the Retirement Fund for Religious.

**The Diocese of Toledo is in compliance with the articles of the *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB)*.**

The Diocese of Toledo remains committed to ensuring the protection of children and providing a safe environment for all young people. If you have any knowledge of abuse that has been committed by a cleric or by any personnel of the Catholic Church, you are urged to report the abuse to your local police department, Children Services, and the Diocesan Victim Assistance Coordinator at (419)

### Boys Basketball Coach and Assistants Needed

We are still in need of a head coach for the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade boys' basketball team and assistant coaches. Practice would be held at your discretion throughout the week. Games are held on Sundays starting in January. If you would like to donate your time and talent, please contact our Athletic Director, Jonah Studer, at 419-543-0119.

### Year end Donations



All donations received by 12/31/25 will appear on your 2025 tax statement. Anything received after appear on your 2026 tax statement.

### This Weekend !!!

**Annual Sacred Heart Christmas Cookie Exchange**, in the school gym following 8:30 AM Mass **Sunday, December 14**. Bring 2 dozen of your favorite Christmas cookie, candy, breads, etc. & be prepared to exchange with fellow parishioners & leave with many treats to enjoy for the Advent season. Contact Taylor Gwartz with any questions.

### Bake Sale

Sacred Heart 7th & 8th grade students will be holding a bake sale before and after Mass on **December 13 & 14** to help fund their trip to Washington D.C.



### "From Darkness to Light" December 17th. @ 6:30pm

Sacred Heart School invites you to their annual Christmas Nativity Concert, titled "From Darkness to Light". Come celebrate our students and their musical accomplishments, while honoring the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

### Help Needed for Holiday Masses:

12/24 1 Eucharistic Minister, 2 Ushers

12/25 2 Servers

12/26 2 Counters for Christmas Offertory

12/31 2 Servers, 2 Ushers, Offertory

Please let Kelsey Keller (419-565-1241) know if you can help out! Thank you!



**Living  
Christ**

Diocese of Toledo

**November Disbursement**

**\$1,178.64**

**Thank you, Parishioners!**

**Altar and Rosary Christmas cards (10/\$10.00) and Cookbooks (\$10.00) for sale in the parish office.**

**Our traveling vocations cross is looking for a home for March 2026 and beyond. This involves just a few minutes of your time each day to pray a short prayer for vocations. Please contact the parish office to sign up! Thank you!**

**Parish office phones have been an ongoing problem! You may need to call the school at 419-342-2797 to reach us. Reminder parish office hours will vary during the holidays as well. Thank you!**

## **PARISH CONTACTS**

**FR. JEFFERY SMITH ,  
PASTOR**

419-683-2015

JSMITH@TOLEDODIOCESE.ORG

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**DEACON STEVEN VOGT**

419-564-6331

SRVOGT@NCOOL.NET

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**DEACON STEPHEN KELLER  
RETIRED**

419-347-6940

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**MS. JOANN PALM  
BUSINESS MANAGER**

419-683-2015

419-342-2256

JPALM@STJOSEPHCRESTLINE.ORG

HOURS: M & T 9AM TO 3PM-SACRED HEART  
TH & FRI 8AM TO 3PM-ST JOSEPH

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**MRS. BECKY KROMER  
PARISH SECRETARY**

419-342-2256 (SHELBY)

BKROMER@SACREDHEARTBETHLEHEM.ORG

OFFICE HOURS: W & TH 9AM TO 3PM

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**MRS. LISA MYERS  
SCHOOL PRINCIPAL**

419-342-2797 (SHELBY)

419-683-1697 (CRESTLINE)

LMYERS@SHELBY SACREDHEART.ORG

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**MRS. JESSICA RIETSCHLIN  
SCHOOL SECRETARY**

419 342-2797 (SHELBY)

419 683-1697 (CRESTLINE)

JRIETSCHLIN@SHELBY SACREDHEART.ORG

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**JONAH STUDER  
ATHLETIC DIRECTOR**

419-543-0119

JO55ST@YAHOO.COM

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***F.I.S.H. food pantry most needed items:  
5oz can chicken, cr. celery soup, mandarin  
oranges, and pineapple.***

***Thank you for your continued support!***

***The food pantry will be closed Dec. 22nd and  
reopen at their new location: 115 W. Main St.,  
Shelby on January 5, 2026.***



## **Area Events**

**December 13 & 14:** Sacred Heart 7th & 8th Grade Bake Sale

**December 14:** Annual Cookie Exchange

**December 14:** Carey Ecumenical Choir @ 4:00pm

**December 16:** St. Joseph Senior Citizen Lunch

**December 17:** Sacred Heart School Presents Darkness to Light

**December 20:** Sisters of Life @ Resurrection Parish

**December 21:** Festival of Lessons and Carols @ St. Peter

**December 23:** Marvin Memorial Library blood drive (RSVP)

**January 3:** Healing through the Eucharist @ Sorrowful Mother Shrine

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## **Donations & Tax Credits Available Diocese of Toledo Scholarship Fund**

Thank you for your interest in making a donation to the Diocese of Toledo Scholarship Fund! Remember, the state tax credit is limited to \$750 for an individual taxpayer or \$1,500 for married couples filing jointly, and the tax credit cannot exceed the Ohio tax owed. Donors should consider writing two separate checks if they are married filing jointly.

Donations received prior to April 15th, 2026 can be applied to the 2025 tax year.

An acknowledgment letter will be mailed to you for tax credit purposes.

Your donation can be designated to Sacred Heart School, Shelby

To make your gift to the Diocese of Toledo Scholarship Fund, select donate online for our secure site at <https://www.dotsgo.org>, or select mail a check for a printable form to include with your check (see attached form).

Once on <https://www.dotsgo.org>, Click on Donate Now, your school selection would be Sacred Heart School, Shelby

If you have any questions, please contact me directly at 419-342-2797 or [Lmyers@shelbysacredheart.org](mailto:Lmyers@shelbysacredheart.org).

God Bless, Lisa Myers, Principal