



**December 1, 2024**  
**First Sunday of Advent**

5742 State Route 61 S.  
 Shelby, Ohio 44875  
 (419) 342-2256

A Sister Parish with St. Joseph, Crestline.

**SACRED HEART of JESUS**  
**CATHOLIC CHURCH**  
*✧ Bethlehem • Founded 1833 ✧*

***Intentions***

**Tuesday**

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

*Mass Intention: Jim & Theresa Hicks*

**Wednesday**

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

*Mass Intention: Bob & Shirley Vogt*

**Thursday**

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

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

*Mass Intention: Deanne Morall*

**Friday**

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

*Mass Intention: Josephine (Perito) Long*

**7:30pm - First Friday Adoration  
 at St. Joseph**

**Saturday**

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

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

*Mass Intention: Rodney Cole; Lawrence  
 and Mary Alice Biglin*

**Sunday**

**Second Sunday of Advent**

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

*Mass Intentions: Terri Samples, Tracey  
 Royce*

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

*Mass Intention: Jim & Theresa Hicks;  
 Lee and Ruth Schroeder*

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

*Mass Intention: William "Bill" Sharrock;  
 Joanne & Norb Kuchar*

**Dear Parishioners,**

As the weather starts to get colder, I thought it would be good to remind every-  
 one of our inclement weather policy.

**Mass Cancellation During Inclement Weather**

The following policies are in effect for Sacred Heart when inclement weather  
 threatens:

\*On mornings when there is a school Mass, if there is a 2 hour delay the Mass  
 will be at 1:30 p.m. IF school is cancelled, the Mass is CANCELLED.

\*If school is cancelled on a day when Mass is in the evening, please listen to  
 the radio or call the Parish Office to check to see if Mass is cancelled for that  
 evening. Father Jeff will make a decision by Noon on those days.

(Tune in to WVNO @ 106.1 FM or WMFD.com or the parish Facebook page )

In all cases, please use your best judgment! Be Safe!

Here is the Diocese's snow policy as well:

**Diocese of Toledo Policy**

With the winter season close upon us, please keep in mind the policy for Level 3  
 Snow Emergencies: "Whenever a county/city within the Diocese of Toledo is  
 placed under a Level 3 Snow Emergency, during which all roadways are closed to  
 non-emergency personnel, the Catholic Churches within that geographic region  
 will cancel the scheduled Saturday Vigil, Sunday, or Holy Day Masses. Roman  
 Catholics in that region, therefore, are dispensed from the obligation to attend  
 Mass. If Masses are cancelled, Catholics are encouraged to participate in Holy  
 Mass via television, radio, or internet, making a spiritual Communion. When Mass  
 is cancelled, all other diocesan, parish, or school events in that geographic region  
 are also cancelled."

People should always use prudential judgment when traveling!

**P.S.**

Also, just a reminder that beginning the first of the year the Sacred Heart ceme-  
 tery plot prices will be going up slightly. If you would like the current rates  
 please reach out to Becky Kromer at the parish office before the new year to  
 get your name on the list. bkromer@sacredheartbethlehem.org

**In Christ,  
 Fr. Jeff**





**COLLECTION:**

Nov. 24, 2024

\$ 4,493.62

Reg. Offertory

\$ 3,938.62

**LITURGICAL MINISTERS**

Wednesday, Dec. 4

School Mass

**Saturday, Dec. 7**

**Sunday, Dec. 8**

**MUSIC MINISTER**

*Kevin Willis*

**SERVERS**

*Audrey & Berkley*

*Hoffman*

**OFFERTORY**

*Barry & JoAnn Claytor Family*

**EXTRAORDINARY  
MINISTERS**

*Samantha Schroeder, JoAnn Claytor*

*Need 1*

**USHERS**

*Matthew & Steve*

*Gosser*

**LECTOR**

*Joe DiLullo*

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

**MUSIC MINISTER**

*Folk Group*

**SERVERS**

*Adam & Quinn*

*Keller*

**OFFERTORY**

*Brian & Carol Finnegan Family*

**EXTRAORDINARY  
MINISTERS**

*Deacon Steve Vogt, Kelsey Keller*

*Deb Schumacher*

**USHERS**

*Diane & Nathan Metzger*

**LECTOR**

*Tom Metzger*

**COUNTERS**

*Catherine Turner, Veronica Cain*

*Laura Nold*

Christmas Flowers

\$ 505.00

C. Human Development

\$ 50.00



Online

\$ 720.00

Heart of Bethlehem

\$ 5,050.72

**Bible Readings for the Week of Dec. 1, 2024**



- Monday** Is 2:1-5, Ps 122:1-9, Mt 8:5-11
- Tuesday** Is 11:1-10, Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17, Lk 10:21-24
- Wednesday** Is 25:6-10a, Ps 23:1-6, Mt 15:29-37
- Thursday** Is 26:1-6, Ps 118:1, 8-9, 19-21, 25-27a, Mt 7:21, 24-27
- Friday** Is 29:17-24, Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14, Mt 9:27-31
- Saturday** Is 30:19-21, 23-26, Ps 147:1-6, Mt 9:35-10:1, 5a, 6-8
- Sunday** Bar 5:1-9, Ps 126:1-6, Phil 1:4-6, 8-11, Lk 3:1-6

**BULLETIN SPONSORS OF THE WEEK:**

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*Ken: 419-564-4720*



## Day of Prayer for the Sanctification of Priests

Kindly remember in prayer all our Priests serving in the Diocese of Toledo, as they gather on Monday, December 2 for the annual Day of Prayer for the Sanctification of Priests, at the Basilica and National Shrine of Our Lady of Consolation in Carey. Through our prayers, and the intercession of Our Lady of the Rosary, may the Lord grant them spiritual grace, renewed fidelity, consolation and joy in ministry.

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### Sacred Heart Cookie Exchange Sunday, December 8th at noon in the hall

Bring 1-2 dozen of your favorite Christmas treats and an empty container to take home treats made by fellow parishioners to enjoy the Advent Season.  
Any questions: Taylor Gwartz 419-563-5313

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### Catholic Women's Club

The Catholic Women's Club of the Saint Juan Diego Deanery meeting will be Wednesday, December 11th. for Mass at Resurrection Church located at 2600 Lexington Avenue in Lexington. Mass will begin at 11 am, with a buffet lunch to be served in the hall at 12:30. The cost of the luncheon is **\$22.00**. A program presented by the Lexington Fire and Ice Choir will be the entertainment which will be followed by a brief meeting. All Catholic women in the Saint Juan Diego Deanery are encouraged to attend and get to know the Catholic women in our area. Current members will be contacted to verify reservations. If you are a new member or have not come to a meeting in the past, please call Yvonne Dupinet at 419 468-2960 before noon on **Thursday December 5th.** to make your reservation. If you are interested in carpooling, please call Sheryl Weber at 419-610-3884. We look forward to seeing current members and as well as other ladies who are interested in meeting other Catholic women in our Deanery.



Students at Sacred Heart School donated items for families in Newland, NC. The items donated will be used to help the Newland families recover from the hurricane! Items will be delivered to Newland, NC the day after Thanksgiving for distribution.

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**Thank you Barkdull Funeral Home for once again supplying the beautiful Catholic Expressions calendar at no charge! They are very much appreciated!**



**Congratulations to Justin Tuttle and Monica Vloria. The two became one through the sacrament of holy matrimony on Saturday, Nov. 2nd. with Deacon Steve Vogt officiating.**

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### Christmas Outreach Programs



This year, we will not be collecting money for socks for the CAMP Christmas Program. We will, however, be accepting monetary donations for the Thanksgiving meals and Christmas meals that are distributed around the holidays. If you would like to make a donation, you can either drop it in the church basket or you can make your checks payable to CAMP.

They can be mailed to: **CAMP, P.O. Box 426, Crestline, OH 44827.**

Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

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### PACK A PICKUP THIS WEEKEND!!

As in years past, there will be two pickups parked on the front sidewalk of the church the weekend of **November 30th and December 1st.** We ask that you help pack them with non-perishable food items and new toys. One pickup of only food will go to Crestline for the CAMP Christmas Distribution, and one pickup with toys and food will go to Shelby for Shelby Helpline. The trucks will be leaving at **3 p.m. on Sunday.**

It is suggested that all monetary donations be mailed to the respective agency:

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***F.I.S.H. food pantry operates solely by donations and doesn't receive any federal funding, making your donations critical to their daily, (not just holiday), operation! Thank you for continuing your weekly blue barrel donations!***

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### Attention ministers!

***We have many open positions for the 12/24 and 25 and 12/31 Masses. Please check with ministry pro or the parish office if you can help fill the openings. Thank you!***

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### Communion for Shut-Ins:

We have several eucharistic ministers available to take communion to shut-ins. If you would like a visit or know someone who does please contact the parish office. 419-342-2256





## MONSIGNOR DENNIS METZGER

BETHLEHEM – It takes courage to discern a call to the priesthood. A son of the parish enthusiastically responded.

Monsignor Dennis Metzger, born on June 30, 1948, celebrated 50 years in the priesthood on May 25, 2024.

As a student at Sacred of Jesus Catholic School, “I thought about becoming a priest – The Notre Dame sisters constantly put the idea of a religious vocation before us, and made it attractive,” said Monsignor. “I always knew that I wanted to do something service-oriented.”

Following graduation from Sacred Heart School, “I spent my high school years with the Jesuits at their boarding school in Prairie du Chien, WI,” said Metzger.

The faculty included more than 30 Jesuits, so there were always priests and brothers around the campus. Jesuits are primarily educators, Monsignor noted, but “I wanted to pursue a broader ministry.”

There had been priests in four previous generations of his family, so “priesthood was not an unnatural choice,” he said.

After high school, Metzger entered the seminary to study for the Diocese of Toledo in Cincinnati: 4 years in the college – St. Gregory – and 4 years in the theologate – Mt. St. Mary.

“Ironically, after ordination, my first assignment was teaching high school full-time at Delphos St. John,” said Monsignor.

In less than 10 years – 2033 – Sacred Heart of Jesus Catholic Church will turn 200 years old. Metzger’s family are pillars.

“My great-great-grandfather Simon Metzger, Sr. traveled regularly by horseback to the Redemptorist mission in Peru, Ohio to go to the only Mass available in northwest and north central Ohio,” Metzger explained. “He would make the 30-mile trip on Saturday, sleep in a farmer’s barn, go to Mass on Sunday, then make the return trip after Mass – I speculate that the Redemptorists created their second mission in Shelby Settlement in part because of Simon’s faith and devotion.”

Metzger can trace his family back generations.

“Both sides of my family have been in the Settlement even before the parish started in 1833,” Monsignor noted. “The Finnigans/Brennans came from County Monaghan in 1829/30. The Metzgers from Rust, Germany in 1830.”

Monsignor Dennis intends to see both ancestral homelands.

“I have been fortunate to visit Rust, Germany on a Viking Rhine cruise in 2019,” Metzger shared. “I hope to get to Ireland in 2025.”

Now retired, “I can tell you that being a priest is something special,” said Monsignor. “You do things that not many people can do – especially the Sacraments: making Jesus truly present in the Eucharist, forgiving sins in Reconciliation, anointing people for healing, etc., all of course, simply as an instrument of God’s love and mercy. GOD does it all.”

According to Diocese of Toledo’s Bishop Daniel Thomas, “We have fewer men being ordained to the priesthood each year than we have reaching retirement age.”

Jesus noted, “The harvest is abundant but the laborers are few; so ask the master of the harvest to send out laborers for his harvest.”

The Lord’s counsel wasn’t lost on Monsignor – and shouldn’t be lost in 21st century noise, either.

“My advice to young people who might be thinking about priesthood or religious life: God never stops calling. We need to listen and respond,” Metzger advised. “A priest is part of people’s lives from beginning to end, and that is a privilege and also very rewarding.”

“Are people suggesting that you might have what it takes to be a priest? Perhaps that is God speaking to you! Do you have the seeds of the skills/talents necessary to serve as a priest or religious? God will grow those seeds,” said Monsignor.





# Join Our School Open House December 8th, 2024

Visit our school open house to see the new flooring!

*Coffee & donuts will be served in the Convocation Center  
after 7:00 am & 10:30 am Masses.*

*After 10:30 Mass. join our Jr. High Students for the Wax  
Museum. All donations go toward their trip to Damascus.*

## WAX MUSEUM

*Make our Saints come alive with  
\$1.00 donation per Saint.*





# Growing in FAITH™

Discovering hope and joy in the Catholic faith.

December 2024

Sacred Heart of Jesus Catholic Church

Rev. Jeff Smith, Pastor

## One Minute Meditations

### St. John of the Cross

Born in Castile, Spain, St. Juan de Yepes lived in poverty. St. John embraced poverty and suffering throughout his life. In 1563, he entered the Carmelite Order. He befriended St. Teresa of Ávila, who encouraged and supported him in his efforts at reform. He faced opposition and he was imprisoned in a tower. From this experience came the mystical poetry and inspired writings on the interior life that made him a Doctor of the Church.

### Close to the Infant Jesus

"You are nowhere but close to the Infant Jesus, trembling with cold in the stable of Bethlehem... Therefore, I beg you to love the crib of the Child of Bethlehem... stay close to him and be sure that Jesus is in the midst of your hearts more than you could believe or imagine." St. Padre Pio

*"And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory"*  
(John 1:14).



## The best gifts come on Christmas

Christmas brings a joy that goes beyond presents—it's a season rich with the gifts God offers: love, hope, family, and the promise of Heaven. These gifts touch every heart, young and old, and hold profound meaning.

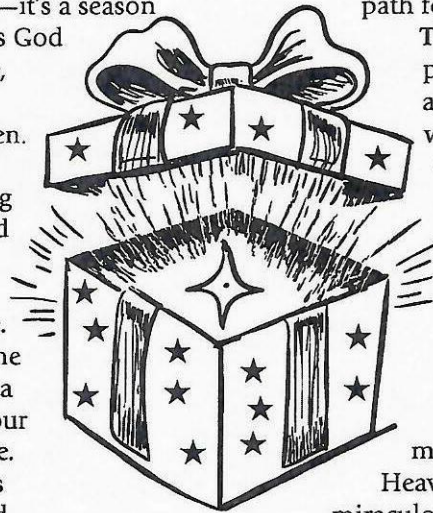
**The gift of love.** God chose to come into the world as a baby, sharing in our human experience. His love surpasses anything we could imagine. He invites us to embrace His love and let it transform us.

**The gift of hope.** Although we have moments of sin and can turn from God, the Child born on that first Christmas offers freedom from sin and the hope of a brighter future. This hope

renews us and promises a better path forward.

**The gift of family.** Family provides strength, comfort, and support. Baptism welcomes us into Christ's divine family, where we are bound by an unbreakable connection. *"See what love the Father has bestowed on us that we may be called the children of God"* (1 John 3:1).

**The gift of Heaven.** The most awesome gift is Heaven itself. Without Jesus' miraculous birth, Heaven would be out of reach. He bridged the gap between Heaven and Earth, offering the promise of eternal joy. This Christmas, we can cherish the enduring gifts of love, hope, family, and Heaven that make the season truly meaningful.



## Why Do Catholics Do That?

The tradition of displaying nativity scenes began with St. Francis of Assisi, who was awed that God humbled Himself to be born in humility and poverty. To illustrate, he displayed a manger scene in a cave near the Franciscans' chapel —

## Why do Catholics display nativity scenes?

complete with donkey and ox. He celebrated Christmas Mass and, according to an eyewitness, the wax figure of the Christ Child came alive. This pious tradition continues, reminding us that "the

*Word became flesh and dwelt among us"* (John 1:14).

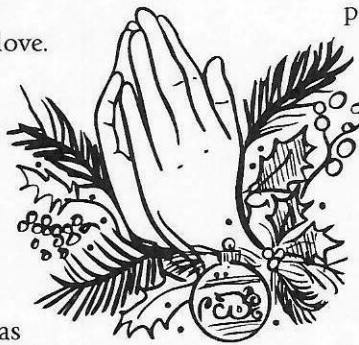




# Two Advent practices for a joyful Christmas

Each Advent, God invites us to deepen our friendship with Him and draw closer to His love. The key to a joyful Christmas lies in responding to this invitation by dedicating daily time to God and helping those in need.

**Do the one thing needful:** Pope Francis encourages us to “waste time” with God through prayer, even for just 15–20 minutes. This could be offering daily prayers for a special intention, meditating on the Christmas Story a verse at a time, or simply being peacefully



present to Him, who is always present to us. Continue spending time with Him after the season ends.

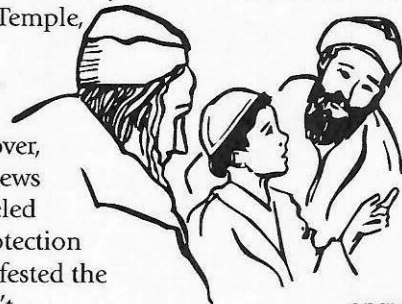
**Go in haste to love:** Just as Mary went “with haste” (Luke 1:39) to serve her cousin Elizabeth, we, too, are called to act quickly in love. While no one can do everything, everyone can do something. When we serve others even in small ways, we receive a greater gift in return (Matthew 25:40).

Embrace these practices for a deeper, more joyful Christmas open to God’s love.

## from Scripture

### Luke 2:41-52, Love and obedience

The Feast of the Holy Family (December 29) includes the story of finding Jesus in the Temple, a story of love and obedience. Jesus, Mary, and Joseph traveled to Jerusalem for the Passover, as was the custom for Jews of that time. They traveled in a large group for protection against bandits who infested the hill country. So it wasn’t surprising that His parents didn’t miss Jesus as they started the return trip. Upon discovering Him missing, they hurried back to Jerusalem.



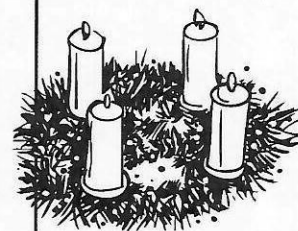
questioning the priests and amazing them with His understanding.

However, Mary asked how He could have caused His parents so much worry and Jesus replied, “Did you not know I must be in my Father’s house?”

Though they were puzzled by His answer, Mary and Joseph took Jesus back to Nazareth. He remained there in obedience to His parents until it was time for His public ministry. We learn from this story to obey not only God but also those in valid authority over us.

## Q & A How do I use an Advent Wreath?

The Advent Wreath is a circle of evergreen branches, symbolizing God’s eternal and unending love. It includes three purple (violet) candles and one pink (rose) candle. On the first Sunday of Advent, and each night that week, the first purple candle, known as the Prophet’s Candle, is lit



to symbolize hope. On the second Sunday and throughout that week, light both the first and second purple candles.

The second candle, called the Bethlehem Candle, represents faith. The pink candle, lit during the third week, symbolizes joy and marks Gaudete Sunday. During the fourth week of Advent, all three purple candles and the pink candle are lit. The fourth candle, known as the Angel’s Candle, represents peace.

Consider meditating on Scripture as you light the candles. Week 1 (hope) - Isaiah 9:2-7, week 2 (faith) - Micah 5:2-5a, week 3 (joy) - Luke 2:8-14, and week 4 (peace) - Luke 1:26-38.

## Feasts & Celebrations

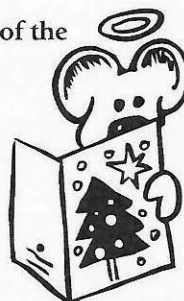
**December 1 - First Sunday in Advent.** We anticipate Christ’s birth and His coming on the Last Day. Catholics everywhere light candles in an Advent wreath to signal the coming of the light of Christ.

**December 4 – St. John Damascene (749).** A Doctor of the Church and the last of the Greek Fathers, St. John was born in Muslim-ruled Syria and was counselor to the caliph. He is known for his writings in favor of the use of sacred images for devotion.

**December 9 – Immaculate**

**Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary.** We commemorate that Mary was conceived in St. Anne’s womb without original sin, preparing Mary to be the Mother of God. Pope Pius IX declared this doctrine in 1854. This year, it’s still considered a holy day of obligation and Mass attendance is required.

**December 28 – Feast of the Holy Innocents (1st century).** Today, we remember the infants massacred by King Herod’s soldiers (Matthew 2:16-18). We also pray for the safety of unborn children.



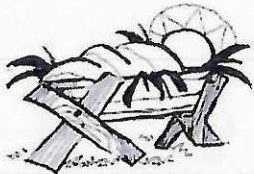
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To provide practical ideas that promote faithful Catholic living.

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(Unless noted Bible quotes and references are from the Revised Standard Version and the New American Bible)





# Advent Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1 December</b> Light the first violet candle in the Advent wreath, symbolizing Hope. Reflect on God's faithfulness and the hope of salvation. (See 1 Peter 3:15 for inspiration.)	<b>2</b> How will you draw closer to Christ during Advent? Will you deepen your faith through intentional prayer, heartfelt penance, generous almsgiving, or a renewed focus on the Sacraments?	<b>3</b> Practice the Heroic Minute as proposed by St. Josemaría Escrivá. Get out of bed immediately when you wake (don't press the "snooze" button) and offer the day to God.	<b>4</b> Set out the stable and the empty manger from your Nativity scene. Slowly add the figures throughout Advent.	<b>5</b> Advent is a busy time for Catholic parishes. Call or email your parish office and ask how you can help.	<b>6</b> Attend First Friday Mass, in honor of Jesus' Sacred Heart. Pray, "O Sacred Heart of Jesus, make my heart like yours." And He will.	<b>7</b> Perform a thorough examination of conscience today. Then attend Confession to ready your soul to greet the Savior.
<b>8</b> Light two violet candles in the Advent wreath each night this week. Sit in silence and enjoy the quiet. Read Luke 2:1-7.	<b>9</b> <i>Immaculate Conception</i> God preserved Mary from sin to be Jesus' mother. Attend Mass and pray a Rosary in her honor.	<b>10</b> A loving gaze is one of the kindest gifts we can offer. Today, Look at everyone through eyes of compassion and kindness, letting love illuminate each encounter.	<b>11</b> Ask Jesus to heal whatever keeps you from experiencing God's bountiful love.	<b>12</b> <i>Our Lady of Guadalupe</i> To honor Our Lady of Guadalupe, place a rose in a vase and pray for expectant mothers.	<b>13</b> St. Francis de Sales said, "Have patience with all things, but... chiefly with yourself." Practice patience with everyone today, especially yourself.	<b>14</b> Gather friends and neighbors and go Christmas caroling at a nursing home or homeless shelter.
<b>15</b> <i>Gaudete Sunday</i> Light two violet candles and the rose one for joy to mark the halfway point of Advent.	<b>16</b> Reach out to your parish office to find out how you can make Christmas brighter for a family in need. Your kindness could be their Christmas miracle.	<b>17</b> Put a lamp or candle in a window to welcome the Christ Child. Light it every night until Christmas.	<b>18</b> Today, offer a small sacrifice out of love, just for God.	<b>19</b> Visit the Blessed Sacrament, where Jesus promises to remain with us (Matthew 28:20). Renew your faith in His steadfast love.	<b>20</b> Refusing to forgive can destroy our interior peace. Ask for the grace to let go and move on.	<b>21</b> The King is coming! Tidy up your home and prepare to welcome Him.
<b>22</b> Light all four candles in the wreath, including the last one for peace. Remember we are awaiting Christ and the peace He brings to those faithful to Him (Luke 2:14).	<b>23</b> Read Luke 2:1-19 and decide how you can make room in your heart for Christ. What steps will you take to welcome His presence and live out His love each day?	<b>24</b> Meditate on the Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary or pray Evening Prayer tonight to ready your heart for the birth of the Messiah.	<b>25</b> <i>Rejoice!</i> Place the Christ Child in the manger and rejoice!	<i>"In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be enrolled. This was the first enrollment, when Quirinius was governor of Syria. So all went to be enrolled, each to his own town. And Joseph too went up from Galilee from the town of Nazareth to Judea, to the city of David that is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and family of David, to be enrolled with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. While they were there, the time came for her to have her child, and she gave birth to her firstborn son. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn"</i> (Luke 2:1-7).		



# PARISH CONTACTS

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RETIRED**

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BUSINESS MANAGER**

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TH & FRI 8AM TO 3PM-ST JOSEPH

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LMYERS@SHELBY SACREDHEART.ORG

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JRIETSCHLIN@SHELBY SACREDHEART.ORG

**JONAH STUDER  
ATHLETIC DIRECTOR**

419-543-0119

JO55ST@YAHOO.COM

## Holiday Happenings! (See Bulletin Board Also)



Bring the kids and stop by the Marvin memorial library on Saturday Dec. 7<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 am for hands-on learning about Winter Wonderland Temperatures. We'll make Ice Cream, Snow Storms in a Jar, and watch things melt.



Join us at the Marvin memorial library on Saturday December 14<sup>th</sup> at 11:00am where we'll be making cute Christmas ornaments.

Young Adult Advent Gatherings:  
Open to anyone Ages 18 to 35



December 6: Resurrection Parish

December 20: Most Pure Heart of Mary  
6:00 to 8:00pm

Dinner, Lectio Divinia, Exposition & Confession

RSVP to Kayla Truax at 419-295-0709



Stop by the Marvin memorial library on Monday December 9<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm for coffee and cookies with Jolene Arms, Executive Director of the Shelby Help Line Ministries. Jolene will talk about the resources and services that the Help Line offers the community.



**Thursday, December 12  
Sacred Heart of Jesus Church**

**6:30 p.m.** - Snacks and Social Time

**7:00 p.m.** - Presentation by Fr. Jeff Smith

**8:00 p.m.** - Penance Service and Exposition

There will be several priests on hand to hear confessions.



*Please continue praying for vocations throughout the year by signing up to take the Vocations Cross and Prayer Booklet home for a Month in 2025. You may sign up by calling the parish office. Thank you!*