

# heartbeat

The Pulse of Sacred Heart Parish, Moline, Illinois

Issue 36  
December 2020

**ADVENT & CHRISTMAS**

**LEE PARISH CENTER RENOVATION**

**COVID-19 CAN'T STOP RELIGIOUS  
EDUCATION**



# WAITING THIS ADVENT

Dear Parishioners,

Advent Season is all about waiting. What are we waiting for? We are waiting for the second coming of Jesus Christ at the end of all time. Christ came to us in time as a babe in a manger and spent 33 years among us. He is with us every day in the encounters we have with our brothers and sisters, with whom we share this planet. Jesus will come to us at the end of all time. We look toward to that day when we can say, "Rejoice, for the day is near."

We don't like to wait. When we must, it is very disconcerting. One thing on everyone's mind right now is the COVID-19 pandemic. We would like to get back to the way things were before we were wearing masks, keeping social distance, and staying at home as much as possible. Such uncertainty makes it hard to plan. I often will have someone ask me, "Father, will we be able to do this in two weeks?" I must acknowledge that I am as clueless as everyone else, which is challenging. I am a person who likes to plan and who does not like major surprises.

I have often reflected on what God is trying to teach us considering the present reality in which we live. I am learning a variety of lessons. The main lesson is that I am not in control. I don't like to say God is in control because this statement seems like we are laying the blame for our present trials at God's feet. There is a certain amount of chaos in the world that God does not control. We could say it has to do with the freedom that the Lord has given to the world.





## LEE PARISH CENTER RENOVATION

There is banging and clanking going on around the Lee Parish Center. The first floor is being renovated into living space for the priests of Sacred Heart. The renovation includes the construction of bedrooms, bathrooms, and a kitchen remodel. New ceilings and flooring will also be installed.

We anticipate that this remodeling should take until February. Later in the spring, we will be demolishing the old rectory so that we can make way for a covered drop off spot for the church and a gathering space. These additions will be the last phase of our TTT construction.

When the new living space is complete, we hope to have an open house for all parishioners. This will depend on the COVID-19 protocols. The new living accommodations should allow us to use the vacant space in the Lee Parish Center and it should be more practical than the existing rectory which has four empty suites and considerable upkeep costs. We thank you for your ongoing support, and look forward to showing you the new living spaces soon!

Advent is a good time to reflect on the people we read about in scripture who had to trust God a great deal. Zechariah and Elizabeth were surprised by the birth of their son John, for example (Luke 1:5 ff.). Zechariah was offering sacrifice in the temple fulfilling his priestly duties when an angel surprised him with the news that Elizabeth was pregnant. He questioned the news and was struck dumb for nine months. After nine months he named his son John which means “God is gracious.”

I know that one thing that I have had to learn these last 9 months is that I don't have many of the answers, and to find them, I need to listen more. I am trying to exercise the virtue of fortitude. Let's all listen together. God is gracious. He will never forsake us.

Merry Christmas,

Fr. Mark



# FAMILY TO FAMILY

Just as our Christmas celebrations will look a little different in the midst of the ongoing pandemic, our Family to Family program must also adapt. This year, we are requesting monetary donations, rather than specific items for families. The funds will be put towards gift cards, which families in need can use for gifts and food.

We know many of you look forward to this ministry each year. It represents so much of what we love about Advent here in our parish: a spirit of generosity, a chance to care for and connect with one another, and for many, a chance to shop! However, providing gift cards will protect both our volunteers and our families as we strive to stay healthy. We appreciate your understanding and continued generosity!

Family to Family contributions can be made to Sacred Heart Family To Family and mailed to the Lee Parish Center at 1608 13th Street, Moline, IL 61265. Or if you are attending Mass in person, you may drop off your donation in the Collection Basket located inside the front door with the envelope marked Family to Family.

Thank you in advance for continuing to make Christmas a joyous season for families in need!

# COVID-19 CAN'T STOP RELIGIOUS EDUCATION!

**BY DEBBIE PATRONAGIO, DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

Sacred Heart Catholic Church is providing religious education for students in-person as well as remotely through Google Classroom. Our students are currently working on a service project to bring a little holiday cheer to our homebound parishioners. Gift boxes will be dropped off during the month of December to our homebound parishioners.

Update on the Good Shepherd's Window: In October, we held a virtual basket raffle and raised a total of \$2,444! We also greatly appreciate the Catholic Order of Foresters, Court 1691 who matched our donations up to \$1,500, for a total of \$3,944 raised! This fundraiser actually covered the remaining balance on the window sponsored by the children of Sacred Heart Parish.

I want to personally thank all of my Religious Education Teachers and Support Staff. We are truly blessed by the amazing generosity, compassion, and love that these teachers have for the children of our church.

I am also truly grateful to all our families that make up our Religious Education program. It is you as parents who are our first teachers of the faith, and you see to it that your children take an active part in Religious Education. During this most uncertain time, it is vital that our children understand the importance of their faith and the loving God, who is always at our side in difficult times. When we feel that we are lost, we know the Good Shepherd will always find us, care for us, and love us.

# ADVENT PRAYER SERVICE

Advent is a period of spiritual preparation in which many Christians make themselves ready for the coming, or birth of the Lord, Jesus Christ. Celebrating Advent typically involves a season of prayer, fasting, and repentance, followed by anticipation, hope, and joy.

Many celebrate Advent not only by thanking God for Christ's first coming to Earth as a baby, but also for his presence among us today through the Holy Spirit, and in preparation and anticipation of his final coming at the end of the age.

The word advent comes from the Latin term *adventus* meaning "arrival" or "coming," particularly the coming of something having great importance. Advent season, then, is both a time of joy-filled, anticipatory celebration of the arrival of Jesus Christ, and a preparatory period of repentance, meditation, and penance.

This year, due to the COVID-19 pandemic our usual Advent Vesper Service will be replaced with an Advent Prayer Service in preparation of repentance, meditation and penance for Advent.

On the Sundays of December 6, 13, and 20, you are invited to join us at 4:00 PM in the church for our Advent Prayer Service. This Prayer Service will be filled with music (sung by our Cantors) prayer time, reflection, and participation.

As we joyfully await the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ, prayer time is something we need in our lives. Join us on December 6, 13, or 20 as we gather to wait in the darkness of winter nights for Jesus our Light to come. May our hearts be filled with joy and promise this Advent Season.

# LITURGICAL SCHEDULE

Below is the Advent and Christmas schedule we have planned for 2020. As with many schedules this year, our plan is subject to change. Please visit [www.sacredheartmoline.org](http://www.sacredheartmoline.org), our Facebook page, or call the office at (309) 762-2362 to confirm that an event will still be taking place as scheduled. Thank you for your continued patience and participation during this uncertain season!

## **Advent Prayer Service: A Prayer Service for Hope**

- Sunday, December 6 - 4:00 p.m. in the church
- Sunday, December 13 - 4:00 p.m. in the church
- Sunday, December 20 - 4:00 p.m. in the church

## **Sacrament of Reconciliation**

Sacred Heart will offer extended hours for the Sacrament of Reconciliation the week prior to Christmas. Check the bulletin for details.

## **Christmas Eve:** Thursday, December 24

There will be no 8:00 a.m. Mass

- 4:00 p.m. Mass
- 5:45 p.m. Mass
- 7:15 p.m. Mass
- 10:00 p.m. Mass

## **Christmas Day:** Friday, December 25

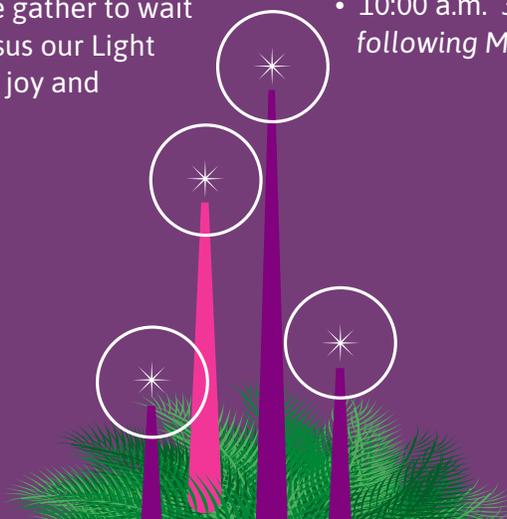
- 9:00 a.m. Mass only

## **New Year's Eve:** Thursday, December 31

- 8:00 a.m. Mass
- 5:30 p.m. Mass

## **New Year's Day:** Friday, January 1

- 10:00 a.m. *30 minute Eucharistic Adoration following Mass*





# POPE AT ANGELUS: WE MUST USE OUR GIFTS FOR GOOD

Pope Francis recently reflected on the Parable of the Talents, saying God will reward “those who have used their gifts to do good.”

On the penultimate Sunday of the liturgical year, Pope Francis reflected on the Parable of the Talents in St Matthew’s Gospel. Jesus shares this parable in His discourse on the end times, immediately before His Passion, death, and resurrection.

The parable describes three servants entrusted with large sums of money by their master, who goes away on a journey. In the parable, Pope Francis noted, the master gives to each of the servants “according to their ability.”

“The Lord does so with all of us,” the Pope explained. God “knows us well. He knows we are not all equal and does not wish to favour any one to the detriment of others, but He entrusts capital to each one according to his or her abilities.”

When the master returns and the servants are called to give an account of the money entrusted to them, two present “the good fruits of their efforts,” and are praised by the master. The third, however, who had hidden his talent, is condemned by the master and cast out of his household.



## SETON MOVES TO E-LEARNING THROUGH JANUARY 18

Students at Seton Catholic School have moved to full-time e-learning now through January 18. We ask that everyone please pray for our students, parents, faculty and staff during these unique and challenging times.

“This parable,” the Pope said, “applies to everyone but, as always, to Christians in particular.”

He added that it is particularly relevant today, on the World Day of the Poor, when the Church urges everyone to stretch forth our hands to the poor.

We are all given different abilities – and “these gifts need to be used to do good in this life, as a service to God and to our brothers and sisters.”

Speaking off-the-cuff, Pope Francis urged everyone to look at the poor, of which there are many.

“There is so much hunger, even in the heart of our cities,” he said. “Often we enter into a mindset of indifference: the poor person is there but we look the other way.” Instead, he said, “stretch forth your hand to the poor: He is Christ.”

Jesus, added the Pope, taught us to speak to the poor. He came for the poor.” Once again, Pope Francis pointed to the Blessed Virgin Mary as an example for all of us. She “received a great gift, Jesus Himself, but she

did not keep Him to herself. She gave Him to the world,” he said.

“May we learn from her to stretch forth our hands to the poor,” he concluded.

*Source: Catholic News Agency*

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
ROCK ISLAND, IL  
PERMIT NO. 171



# SACRED HEART

CATHOLIC CHURCH  
MOLINE, ILLINOIS

1608 13TH STREET  
MOLINE, IL 61265

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

## HOME IS WHERE THE HEART IS

Due to COVID-19, daily Masses and Eucharistic Adoration times may vary. Please check the bulletin for any updates.

### **Confessions During Advent:**

2:45 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. in the church.  
Please enter from the east door off the back parking lot. Please wear a mask. 6-foot distancing must be observed.

Designed by Mandle Design, Inc.

