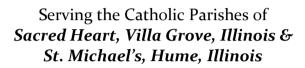


THE MESSENGER

Fourth Sunday of Advent, Christmas Week, Year C December 19, 2021







And the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us, and we saw his glory, the glory as of the Father's only Son, full of grace and truth. John 1:14 ------Wishing you and yours a very blessed and Merry Christmas!

CHURCH CENTRAL OFFICE

206 N. Pine Street Villa Grove, IL 61956 Phone Number: (217) 832-8352 Fax Number: (217) 832-8354 E-mail: villagrove.hume@gmail.com Web Site: www.sacredheartandstmichael.com

Pastor: Father Aloysius Okey Ndeanaefo

PASTORAL STAFF

Secretary: Amy Walch DRE/Youth Coordinator: Mike Stauder Custodial Care: Jim Balmer Maintenance: Scott & Matthew Albin & Jim Balmer

MASS SCHEDULE

Daily Mass at Sacred Heart Tuesday—Friday: 8:00 a.m.

Saturday Vigil at Sacred Heart: 4:00 p.m. In person Mass + Online Streaming Sunday Mass at St. Michael's: 8:00 a.m. Sunday Mass at Sacred Heart: 10:00 a.m.

CONFESSION

Saturday at Sacred Heart: 3:15 p.m. Or by appointment

HOLY DAY MASSES

6:30pm: Vigil Mass at St. Michael's

OFFICE HOURS

Monday — Friday: 8:30 am — 1:30pm (Closed on Holidays and Holy days) 8am & 6:30 pm: Holy Day Masses at Sacred Heart.

Mass Intentions	Mass Intentions	Ministry Schedule
Dec 18 4:00 pm	Rolland Sprague by Amy Walch	December 25th and December 26th, 2021
Dec 19 8:00 am 10:00 am	Charles & Clella Barrett by Phyllis Stone John Dee Hawkins by Steve & Martha Williams	(<i>Friday, December 24th:</i> Lector: Amy Walch Servers: Cory Kappes & Landon Kappes) <u>4:00 pm</u> LECTORS: Kim Lytle
Dec 20 8:00 am Dec 21 8:00 am Dec 22 8:00 am Dec 23 8:00 am Dec 24 4:30 pm 6:30 pm	<i>NO MASS</i> Ursula Calvert by Mark & dawn Jenson & Family Pat & Martha Carr by Lee & Laura Diltz Mary and Henry Kramer by Tony Kramer Gloria Secore by Ollie & Ruth Anne Smith	CO SERVERS: Zane Hosler (<i>Friday, December 24th:</i> Lector: Martha Williams Server: Tim Keske) <u>8:00 am</u> LECTORS: Ollie Smith
Dec 25 9:00 am 4:00 pm Dec 26 8:00 am	All Parish Families Mike Pangburn by Alice Kaufman George Carroll by Mary Waller	USHERS: Glenda Waller COMSERVERS: Lily Brown & Leah Wood GIFTS: Leah Wood
10:00 am	Pat & Martha Carr by Lee & Laura Diltz	
Mass	Mass Intentions Requests	<u>10: 00 am</u> LECTORS: Traci McAfee COLLECTION COUNTERS: Dennis Mitsdarfer &
Submit Mass Intention requests to the Parish Office and prayer chain requests to Amy Walch: a.walch65@gmail.com		Barb Vandeventer SERVERS: Amy Mitsdarfer & Dennis Mitsdarfer
Prayer Requests		Sacred Heart:
gue, Mary Tipsend, Barbara Waymire, Susan Wilkey, Cathy Weatherford, and Mike Webb.		Saturday, 4:00 p.m. & Sunday, 10:00 a.m. St. Michael's: Sunday, 8:00 a.m. Weekly Collection
		Week Ending Sunday, December 12, 2021 • Sacred Heart Church Weekly Collection: \$1536.00 Building Fund: \$30.00 Retired Religious: \$445.00 Christmas Offering: \$50.00 Christmas Offering: \$250.00 State of the
Daily Scripture Readings		PCT: \$ Online Giving: \$605.00
Gospel: MT 1:8-25 Dec 23: R1: MAL 3:1-4, 23-24 Dec 19: R1: MI 5:1-4a Gospel: LK 1:57-66 R2: HEB 10:5-10 Dec 24: R1: 2SM 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, IM Gospel: LK 1:39-45 Dec 25: R1: IS 52:7-10; Dec 21: R1: SG 2:8-14 Dec 26: R1: SIR 3:2-6, 12-14 Gospel: LK 1:39-45 Dec 26: R1: SIR 3:2-6, 12-14 Dec 21: R1: SG 2:8-14 R2: COL 3:12-21		Total Deposit: \$3061.00 . St. Michael's Church Weekly Collection: \$810.00 \$150.00 Loose Cash: \$5.00 Immaculate Conception: \$315.00 Christmas Flowers: \$100.00 Hall Rental: \$ Retired Religious: \$140.00 \$50.00 PCT: \$ Online Giving: \$200.00 Total Deposit: \$1570.00 All collections OTHER than the Diocesan Collections may be tithed Diocesan Collections will be denoted here in a different color.
Dec 22: R1: 1SM 1:24-2	Gospei: LK 2:41-52	biolesun concertons win be denoted here in d'auggerent colori

The Parish Tithing amount for November collections was calculated at **\$404.00** or 10% of the monthly collection which was **\$4024.00** and a check will be sent to the diocese. To date the PCT payments have totaled **\$2041.00.00**.

The Parish Tithing amount for November collections was calculated at \$760.00 or 10% of the monthly collection which was \$7600.00 and a check will be sent to the diocese. To date the PCT payments have totaled **\$4565.00**

Pastoral Reflections

Scripture Reflection (4th, Sun in Advent. Year C) True to his name, it translates as "Who is like God" this prophet challenges the people of his day to give pride of place to the standards of heaven. It seems he had some success. King Hezekiah, 800 years before the birth of Jesus, was moved by Micah's message to initiate some spiritual reforms (Jeremiah 26:17-20). But these reforms were not enough to steer the kingdom off the course that would eventually cause its collapse. In this reading, however, the prophet reveals the spiritual healing God has in store for a wayward people.

Today's Gospel from Luke is traditionally designated simply as "The Visitation." It describes the visit Mary made to Elizabeth upon finding out that her barrenness has been removed and she is now pregnant. Structurally, this story brings together the unexpected objects of the angel Gabriel's annunciation to Zechariah and then to Mary. Although both are miraculous pregnancies, Jesus is always superior to John the Baptist.

Mary visits Elizabeth. Part of the announcement the angel Gabriel made to Mary regarding her future motherhood included the information that her relative Elizabeth, who for years had been barren, was now six months pregnant. This seems to be the motive for Mary's visiting Elizabeth with such haste. Immediately upon entering Elizabeth's house and giving her a greeting, a strange response takes

place. The infant in Elizabeth's womb leaped. What really happened was that John the Baptist paid homage to Jesus even before either of them was actually born. That is the purpose for which John will be born.

Elizabeth declares Mary blessed. Upon encountering Mary and experiencing the unborn John leaping in her womb, Elizabeth is immediately filled with the Holy Spirit. This will be the source for Elizabeth's insights into who Mary really is and why she has come to make this visit. Through the Holy Spirit, Elizabeth declares that Mary is the most blessed among women and blessed also is the fruit of her womb. These are, in effect, prophetic oracles coming from Elizabeth and inspired by the Holy Spirit.

Why should Mary make this visit to Elizabeth? This is a question whose answer Elizabeth already knows. It enables Elizabeth to pronounce Mary most blessed among all women. It also gives Elizabeth the occasion to proclaim Mary blessed because she has believed what the angel Gabriel told her. In effect, this will also make Mary the first disciple. This visitation story brings together all the important events that will lead up to the birth of the Messiah. The Holy Spirit is behind all the miraculous moments described here. Both of these infants now in their mothers' wombs will eventually fulfill their divine missions.

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Christmas at Greccio ~Feast Day for Dec. 24th~



What better way to prepare for the arrival of the Christ Child than to take a brief journey, to Greccio, the spot in central Italy where, Saint Francis of Assisi created the first Christmas crib in the year 1223. Francis, recalling a visit he had made years before to Bethlehem, resolved to create the manger he had seen there. The ideal

spot was a cave in nearby Greccio. He would find a baby, we're not sure if it was a live infant or the carved image of a baby, hay upon which to lay him, an ox and an ass to stand beside the manger. Word went out to the people of the town. At the appointed time, they arrived carrying torches and candles. One of the friars began celebrating Mass. Francis himself gave the sermon. His biographer, Thomas of Celano, recalls that Francis "stood before the manger...overcome with love and filled with a wonderful happiness..." For Francis, the simple celebration was meant to recall the hardships Jesus suffered even as an infant, a savior who chose to become poor for our sake, a truly human Jesus. Tonight, as we pray around the Christmas cribs in our homes, we welcome into our hearts that same Savior.

Coming Soon ~26, December, 2021~

1 Samuel 1:20-22, 24-28. Psalm 84:2-3, 5-6, 9-10. 1 John 3:1-2, 21-24. Luke 2:22-40.

Family Life. Even the pre-teen Jesus astonishes and worries his parents as they fret over their child! Those of us who are parents know this stress. But all of us, even us aged ones, are still children of God, dearly loved and called to be obedient.

- How will I obey God this day?
- What commandment will I keep?
- What mercy work will I do?

Nativity of the Lord ~December 25th~



Behold. the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel, which means "God is with us.

Matthew 1:23 **Christmas Blessings!**



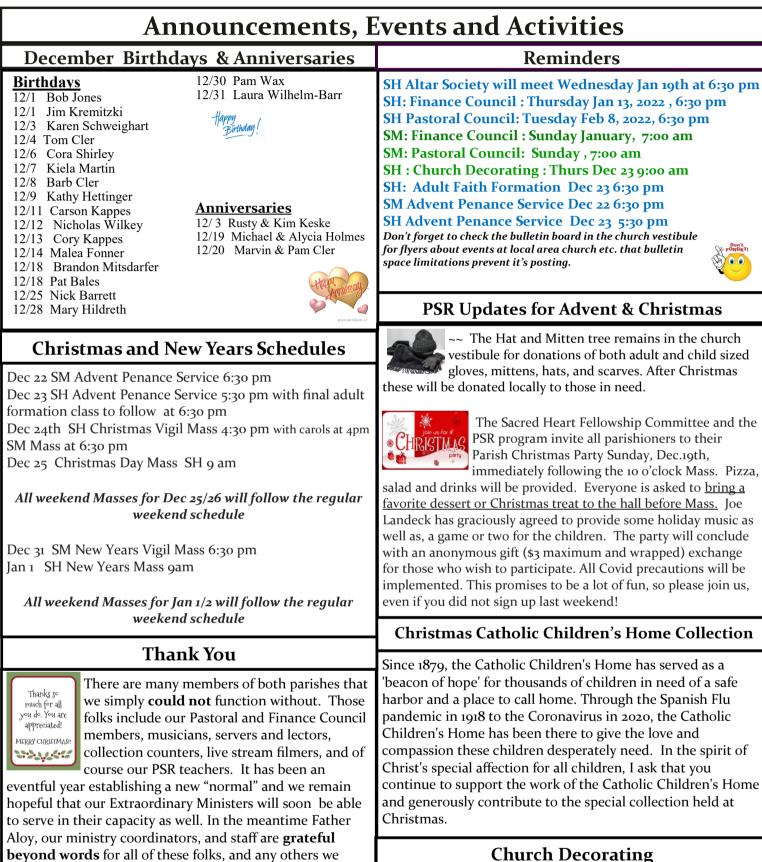


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villagro ve.hume@gmail.com





Church Decorating

All of the Sacred Heart Church Decorating members are asked

generously of their time and talents in 2021 to help keep our little parishes, so far in proximity from our Diocesan hub of Springfield, vibrant and strong. The parishes of St Michael and Sacred Heart have been a perfect and loving example of a church family. Thank You!

failed to mention, who have stepped up and given so

to help get the church ready for Christmas on Thursday December 23rd at 9:00 am (following the morning Mass). As always, the more members present the faster this project can be completed! Thanks in advance.





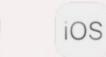


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