



# Sacred Heart Church

A Roman Catholic Community

324 Ridge Road, Lyndhurst, NJ 07071

Phone: 201-438-1147 Fax: 201-507-5861

[www.sacredheartlynd.org](http://www.sacredheartlynd.org)

## SERVED BY:

Rev. Theesmas Pankiraj  
Pastor

Rev. Cesar Chen  
Parochial Vicar

## PARISH OFFICE 615 NEW JERSEY AVE

Charles Sofio  
Parish Manager  
[sacredheartchurch@comcast.net](mailto:sacredheartchurch@comcast.net)

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Jazmin Mello  
Parish Catechetical Leader  
201-935-3094  
[religioused@sacredheartlynd.org](mailto:religioused@sacredheartlynd.org)

## SACRED HEART SCHOOL

Rita Naviello  
Principal  
201-939-4277  
[rnaviello@sacredheartlynd.org](mailto:rnaviello@sacredheartlynd.org)

**SMALL BLESSINGS DAY CARE**  
201-935-0506

**ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK**  
973-497-4000



## 4<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT

"She will bear a son and you are to name him Jesus,  
because he will save his people from their sins." - Mt 1:21

December 21, 2025

## SACRAMENT OF THE EUCHARIST - MASS SCHEDULE

Sunday: 7:30am, 9:00am, 10:30am, 12:00pm, 1:30pm(Spanish)  
Monday - Friday: 12:00pm in the church  
Saturday: 9:00am in the church,  
5:00pm in church (Anticipated Mass of Sunday)  
Holy Days & Holidays: As announced in Bulletin

## SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturday: 4:00pm - 4:45pm  
Daily: Upon request following the 12:00pm Mass

## SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Parents should contact the parish office to schedule an interview and register for the required baptismal preparation session.

**Preparation:** in the church at 7:00pm

**Sacrament:** in the church at 3:00pm  
Jan. 11, Feb. 8, Apr. 4, May 17, Jun. 14, Jul. 12

## SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE

The Common Policy for Marriage in all Catholic parishes of New Jersey requires couples to begin preparation at least one year prior to the planned wedding date. It is advisable to contact the parish office before any other arrangements are made.

## SACRAMENT OF ANOINTING OF THE SICK

The Anointing of the Sick is available for all seriously ill members of our parish family. Please call the parish office.

## R.C.I.A.

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults is the Church's process to prepare to receive the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist. If you or someone you know is interested in learning more, please call the parish office.

## PARISH REGISTRATION / OFFICE HOURS

We invite all new members of our parish family to register at the Parish Office during regular office hours: 9:00am to 5:00pm Monday - Friday; Saturdays and Sundays Closed.

## FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

We approach Christmas with vivid, violent reminders of the evils caused in our society by selfishness, ruthless ambition, twisted hatred and the craze for power at every level. This ugly drama is played out all over our world especially so in our politics, in the bitterness and irreconcilable differences sometimes found in our homes and families, among the peoples of the Middle East and Eastern Europe hopelessly engulfed in wars not of their choosing, in the mistrust found among nations and even in the lack of trust in church leadership.

Yet we gather as a people of faith in a holy season of hope. The voice of fear is drowned out for us by the message we were given in last week's Scriptures: "Be strong, fear not! Here is your God!" That message is reinforced today in the example of two who rose above their fears and doubts with absolute trust and confidence in God's love, Joseph and Mary. Both are told not to be afraid in the face of an unusual pregnancy and an uncertain future. Mary would humbly accept her role as Mother of the Word-Incarnate. Joseph would abandon traditional wisdom and take his beloved as his wife, despite rumors and the pointing of fingers.

Through this young couple, God would give a sign to the whole of history, the birth of a Child - Emmanuel, God-with-Us - who would put an end to our fears and bring calm to our hearts.

The birth of this Child points to a much more universal mystery. God's irrevocable choice of our world - with all of its turmoil, fear, and uncertainty - is the place where salvation happens. And this Child is the one who would finally unite the human family in a new community of freedom, justice and peace.

It is this Child who will challenge political and religious systems, embracing a radical poverty of spirit, and reaching out with compassion and liberation for all the oppressed.

It is He who stirs the profound longings in all the hearts of mankind for true freedom, justice, and peace for ourselves, and for all of our brothers and sisters across the world. It is He who reinforces our Hope. He invites us to commit ourselves fully to these values. He begs us not to trivialize our resolve by being satisfied with token and occasional gestures of Christianity, but to strive even more forcefully to eliminate the hoarding, climbing, and controlling in our own lives and in the world at large.

The spirit of Advent and Christmas is a mirror in which we see reflected the very best that life can become. The experience of Joseph and Mary tells us that God is working in ways not immediately clear to us and that we can help each other to put away our fears and move from darkness into light to once again hear the words of life.

Today we are reassured that even in situations of conflict or confusion our God is faithful. Despite all of our uncertainties and difficulties our God is born again into our lives, builds us up and stays with us. For our God is named Emmanuel - truly God is with us.

### *Christmas Memorial Flowers*

Your Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_ Other:\$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ \$50

\_\_\_\_\_ \$35

\_\_\_\_\_ \$25

\_\_\_\_\_ \$20

\_\_\_\_\_ \$15

\_\_\_\_\_ \$10

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

### **St. Patrick's Celebration - March 7th**

#### **Your Help Makes A Difference**

#### **Your Unwanted Christmas Gifts Needed**

Before you put those unwanted Christmas gifts that you received in the back of your closet, consider donating them to our parish. All **NEW ITEMS** will be used to make baskets for raffle that we will have at our St. Patrick's Day Celebration. All items can be left near the shrine of the Sacred Heart in the back of the church.

If you would be interested in helping set-up, serve or clean-up at the event, please call the parish office.

## **ONLINE GIVING AT SACRED HEART**

Online Giving at Sacred Heart has never been easier and is just a couple of clicks away.

1. You can give to the parish through the Zelle online payment system offered through most major banks. When you create the Zelle payee for the parish, please use the parish email address: [sacredheartchurch@comcast.net](mailto:sacredheartchurch@comcast.net).

**Please be careful when you type in the email address because once you "Zelle" the money from your account it can not be corrected.**

2. You can visit [www.sacredheartlynd.org](http://www.sacredheartlynd.org), our parish website and click the Online Giving Options link. If you want to make a direct donation to the parish with your debit or credit card, you can click the direct donation link.

## **WAITING FOR JESUS**

As Christians, we are called to wait in joyful hope for the coming of our Lord and Savior. In fact, this hope is given expression at every Mass in the Mystery of Faith.

In the holy sacrifice of the Mass, we proclaim the mystery of our faith – God becoming truly man while remaining fully God, who for the sake of His creatures suffered death and rose to new life which He offers to us who believe in Him. We make this proclamation immediately following the consecration of the bread and wine, when we experience in a real and tangible way the incarnation, crucifixion, and resurrection. Space and time become irrelevant – we enter into the eternal present of God and are in one sense transported to Bethlehem and Jerusalem where we adore the Lord in the manger with the shepherds, eat in the upper room with the apostles, stand at the foot of the cross with the Blessed Mother and run to the empty tomb with Peter and John. Two of the three formulas for the Mystery of Faith proclaimed in the Mass end with the words, "until you come again." These words take on an even greater sense of anticipation during Advent when we are focused on the incarnation Christ, not only in a grotto in Bethlehem but also in our hearts.

As we are waiting to meet Jesus in this most profound and intimate way it is good to stop and reflect on the concrete aspects of our lives to honestly see how prepared we are for this meeting. The questions asked in the poem below, if reflected on with sincerity, can help us prepare to receive Jesus Christ whenever He comes.

### **Imagine, on Christmas Day your doorbell rings and when you open the door you find Jesus Christ has come to visit you**

Would you have to change your clothes before you let Him in?

Or hide some magazines and put the Bible where they had been?

Would you hide your CDs and DVDs and put some hymns books out?

Could you let Jesus walk right in, or would you rush about?

And I wonder ...if the Savior spent a day or two with you,  
Would you go right on doing, the things you always do?  
Would you go right on saying, the things you always say?  
Or would life for you continue as it does from day to day?

Would you take Jesus with you everywhere you go?  
Or would you maybe change your plans for just a day or so?

Would you be glad to have Him meet your closest friends?  
Or would you hope they stayed away until His visit ends?

Would you be glad to have Him stay forever on and on?  
Or would you sigh with great relief when He at last was gone?

It might be interesting to know, the things that you would do,  
If Jesus came at Christmas, to spend some time with you.

## PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR PARISH FAMILY

**SICK:** Baby Ryan Joseph Lomuscio, Sal Russo, Charles Klimkowsky, Nancy Namoviez, Giovanna Muscara, Al & Joan Viscuso, Lea Pappas, Anita Barcia, Denise Swanteck, Maureen F. Coughlin, John Smith, Julius Single, Dave Tzrepla, Frank Buco, Sr., Christopher N. Coughlin, Vladimir Pudoff, Isabella Lugo, Tess, Francesco Giacchi, Mario Alongi, Sr., John Scivetti, Ken Stone, Timothy Yushak, Jaxson Rivera, Marilyn Loughran, Luca Ataide, Donald Tetreault, Norma Altreche, Linda Vasquez, Joelle Montillo, Vincent Russo, Nenita A. Jacildone, Anthony Scorre, Fely Czeslowski, Ely Ongoco, Perpetua Aspile, Andrea Globis, Laura MacDonald, Ava Romano, Fr. Anthony Di Stefano, Ruben Arevalo Jacildone, Helen Dowling, Dr. Leticia Luna, Jeanette Knowlton, Michele Gilmore, Milena Giacchi, Freddy Berrios, Maryann Sheridan, Naham, Rudy Rivas, Tania, Jaime Diaz, Romile Diaz, Julius Single, Jr., Tina Gentile, John Llewellyn, Patricia Anne Coughlin, Cathy Horoieski, Josephine Burns, Arnulfo Orozco, Assunta Santangelo, Clementine Vocaturo, Tin Maung Khin, Monroe Madsen, Ymilce Badia, Rita Blanco, Jeanette Tucci, Linda Kost

**DECEASED:** Alison Nee

### CHURCH BELLS CELEBRATE & COMMEMORATE

The Sacred Heart Church bell rings:



**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 25TH**

**In Honor of:** Joseph & Evelyn Famularo

**Donated by:** Robert & Mary Hero

### MEMORIAL DONATIONS

During the week of December 21st, the following items used for worship in our sanctuary were donated in the memory of a relative or friend or a special intention.

#### BREAD & WINE:



**In Honor of:** Pavlica & Ferrara Families

**Donated by:** Patty & Joe Pavlica

## SACRED HEART HOME-SCHOOL ANNUAL TRICKY TRAY FRIDAY, JANUARY 16, 2026

Sacred Heart Home -School Association presents their Annual Tricky Tray on Friday, January 16, 2026 at Sacred Heart School, 620 Valley Brook Ave, Lyndhurst. Tickets are **\$20 per person - no one under 18** will be admitted. **Tickets are non-refundable.** Doors open at 5:30 pm. Tickets includes ticket for 1st level prizes, coffee/tea and dessert. If you are interested, please call the school office at 201-939-4277 or Patty at 201-803-9580. **Ticket deadline is January 4. No tickets available at the door. No alcoholic beverages.**

## SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION THURSDAY, JANUARY 1, 2026

Thursday, January 1st is the Solemnity of Mary Mother of God, a Holy Day of Obligation. Masses for the Holy Day will be on Wed., Dec. 31st at 5:00 PM and Thu., Jan. 1st at 9:00 AM, 10:30 AM, and 12 Noon.

**DECEMBER 21, 2025**



### FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

#### Anticipated Sunday Mass

5:00pm Mr. & Mrs. Fred Giordano (Living)

#### SUNDAY - FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

7:30am People Of Sacred Heart

9:00am Anne Montillo

10:30 am Marcos Urena

12:00pm Lejda & O'Mara Families

1:30 pm Pablo Rodriguez

#### MONDAY - Late Advent Weekday

12:00pm Fr. Giovanni Cuzzio

#### TUESDAY - Late Advent Weekday/St. John Kanty, Priest

12:00pm Miester & Vivas Family

#### WEDNESDAY- Late Advent Weekday

9:00am Edward Downey

### CHRISTMAS MASSES

#### WEDNESDAY - VIGIL OF CHRISTMAS

5:00 pm Carol Petrillo-Lintz

Midnight Frank Navatta

#### THURSDAY - THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

7:30 am Catherine & Pat Costello

9:00 am Joseph & Josephine Di Lascio

10:30 am Anna Marie Faller &  
Anthony Michael Silver

12:00pm Scardino, Pereira & Alongi  
Families

1:30 pm Natalia Barone & Family (Living)

#### FRIDAY - St. Stephen, the First Martyr

12:00pm Valentine Mc Hale

#### SATURDAY - St. John, Apostle and Evangelist

9:00am Stanley Michna

#### Anticipated Sunday Mass

5:00pm Julian & Lorenza Duran

#### SUNDAY - THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH

7:30am People Of Sacred Heart

9:00am Phyllis Hanratty

10:30 am Anne Montillo

12:00pm Rosemary Marranzino

1:30 pm Jesus Benitez (Living)





## Christmas Mass Schedule

Wednesday, December 24th

5:00 PM - Vigil Mass

12:00 AM - Midnight Mass

(The Mass at 9:00 AM on December 24th is for the last day of Advent. It IS NOT a Christmas Mass and does not fulfill the obligation to attend Mass on Christmas)

Thursday, December 25th

7:30 AM, 9:00 AM

10:30 AM, 12:00 PM, 1:30 PM (Spanish)



## Food Pantry Update

*"Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me" Matthew 25:40*

**We are stocking up the pantry for Christmas and the winter season. Can you help us assist our brothers and sisters struggling with food insecurity to have a merrier Christmas?**

If you can donate any of these items, it would be greatly appreciated: Cereal, Fruit, Pasta Sauce, Pasta (including Spaghetti), Potatoes (small packages or canned), Vegetables, Coffee (regular and instant), Peanut Butter, and Jelly, Tuna, Macaroni & Cheese, Beans. Food items can be left near the shrine of the Sacred Heart in the back of the church. Thanks to all for the donations which help keep our food pantry stocked!

## PARISH OFFICE

### CHRISTMAS SEASON HOURS

In observance of Christmas, the **parish office will close at 2:00pm on Tuesday, Dec. 23rd and reopen on Monday, Dec. 29th at 9:00am.** The priests and staff of Sacred Heart wish you and your family a very Holy and Joy-Filled Christmas! In observance of the Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God, and the New Years holiday, **the parish office will close at 2:00pm Tuesday, Dec. 30th. The office will reopen at 9:00am on Monday, January 5th.**



## SAVE THE DATE Special Visitors Coming To Our Parish Sunday, January 4th At 3:00 PM

The Three Kings will stop by our church on their way to adore the Christ Child on Sunday, January 4th at 3:00 PM. All are invited to come and greet them. The children of our parish family are encouraged to write letters to Kings and to give them to the kings when they visit and they will receive a gift from the kings.