

CHRISTMAS/NEW YEAR

RECONCILIATION

Saturday, December 11th
4pm - 4:45pm (in the chapel)
Saturday, December 18th
4pm - 4:45pm (in the chapel)
Monday, December 20th
7pm – 8pm (chapel & CCD classroom)

CHRISTMAS EVE MASSES*

Friday, December 24th
5:00 PM, 10:00 PM (Polish)
12:00 Midnight Mass

CHRISTMAS DAY MASSES*

Saturday, December 25th
7:30am, 10:00am, 11:30am (Polish)
(NO 5pm Saturday Night Mass)

NEW YEAR'S EVE MASS

Friday, December 31st
5:00 PM, Vigil Mass

NEW YEAR'S DAY MASSES

Saturday, January 1st, 2022
10:00am (English), 11:30am (Polish)
(There will be a 5pm Saturday Night Mass)

*** (Christmas is a Holy Day of Obligation)**

GENTLE REMINDER...

Think of our beautiful church building as your home. Just as you always want your home to be ready to welcome guests and visitors, please be conscious of picking up after you and your family at the end of Mass; readying the church for others. Please replace all misselettes and song books and take the bulletin with you so we all make the church ready to welcome others for worship.

COAT DRIVE

Ss. Peter & Paul parishioners of Hackettstown Cub Scout Pack 164 are sponsoring a Winter Coat Drive through the Jersey Cares organization from Nov. 20th- Dec. 20th. Jersey Cares plans to collect and distribute more than 20,000 "gently used" winter coats to men, women, and children in need throughout New Jersey this season. Please consider donating your gently used coats to this worthwhile organization. We have a red collection box set up in the back of the church for donations.

OFFERING ENVELOPES

Please help yourselves to one box of offering envelopes per family for next year, 2022. Remember, if you wish us to keep track of your donations for tax purposes, please put your name and amount on each envelope. The free address labels are an easy and fast way to address your envelope. Also, Religious Ed families are asked to put your name on each offering envelope. This helps determine your involvement in our parish.



KEEPING CHRIST IN CHRISTMAS

Some tips on keeping Christ in Christmas:

- Use postage stamps that feature a religious theme
- Hang an Advent Calendar at your work and in your home
- Display your nativity set where others can see
- Place an electric candle in a window symbolizing the light of Christ
- Listen to traditional Christmas carols that honor Christ's birth
- Find religious Christmas wrapping paper and decorations
- Read Christmas scripture and stories to children
- Purchase a gift and give it to the poor, encourage your children to do the same.
- Explain the original Christmas tree tradition to your children
- Use decorations, cards, etc., with Merry Christmas instead of "Happy Holidays"
- Have your children place a piece of straw in the creche each day that they do a good deed during Advent
- Pray for the young, so that when they become adults they will not regard Christmas as just another holiday free from work

Average Person Offerings in November

The following chart shows the average person offerings in the month of November 2021 per Mass:

Nov 6/7	# people	Total Collection	Average/ Person
5 P	125	\$953.00	\$7.62
7:30 A	43	\$589.00	\$13.70
10 A	59	\$603.00	\$10.22
11:30 A	83	\$511.00	\$6.16
TOTAL	310	\$2,656.00	\$8.57
Nov 13/14			
5 P	40	\$554.00	\$13.85
7:30 A	38	\$433.00	\$11.39
10 A	140	\$1203.00	\$8.59
11:30 A	72	\$633.00	\$8.79
TOTAL	290	\$2,823.00	\$9.73
Nov 22/21			
5 P	45	\$447.00	\$9.93
7:30 A	54	\$741.00	\$13.72
10 A	120	\$936.00	\$7.80
11:30 A	74	\$502.00	\$6.78
TOTAL	293	\$2,626.00	\$8.96
Nov 27/28			
5 P	39	\$440.00	\$11.28
7:30 A	47	\$1468.00	\$31.23
10 A	60	\$891.00	\$14.85
11:30 A	89	\$610.00	\$6.85
TOTAL	235	\$3,409.00	\$14.51

Thank you to the Knights of Columbus of Hackettstown for their generous donation of \$300.00 to our church.

The Right Way to Receive Holy Communion

First, ensure that you are free from grave sin. If you are not sure, go to confession. Then, fast from food and drink for at least one hour prior to receiving the Eucharist. Before going up to receive say your Act of Contrition. As the person in front of you is receiving you should bow slightly at that time before it's your turn to receive. If you



are going to receive on the tongue, you should keep certain things in mind. First, the head should be bent back slightly, and the head should be held erect, but kind of tilted back. The tongue should come out over the bottom teeth, equal with the bottom lip, so that the priest has

someplace to put the Host. If you're going to receive in the hand, the best way is to put one hand down and put the other hand on top of it and make a kind of throne for the Lord. The priest holds up the Host and says, "The Body of Christ," and the communicant answers, "Amen." That's not an English word; it's an Aramaic word. It really is pronounced "Ahmeen," and it means, "So be it." "I agree." "I believe." "It is the Body of Christ." When the priest gives you the Host on your hand, you say, "Amen", take a step or two to the side to make way for the next communicant, then receive our Lord. Communion should not be received on the run, as you're walking back to your pew; it should be consumed before you leave the area below the altar. Remember that scene, in the Fourth Gospel, that occurs after the Resurrection; the disciples are out fishing, and the boats are coming toward the shore. Peter, as usual, is completely immersed in what he is doing; he's got his outer clothes off so he can work more easily. The beloved disciple sees someone standing on the shore and says to Peter, "It is the Lord." Peter jumps into the water. That disposition of John, "It is the Lord"—that's what our faith demands. It is the *Lord* that we are



worshipping. It is the *Lord* that we are receiving into ourselves. It is the *Lord* who is giving us in the Eucharist a special way to participate in divine life. It is the *Lord* who is sanctifying us. That should be the overwhelming disposition with which we approach Holy Communion: "IT IS THE LORD!"

CHRISTMAS MASS REMEMBRANCES

If you would like your loved ones, living or deceased, remembered in Christmas Remembrance Masses during Christmas and throughout the month of January, please pick up a Christmas Mass Remembrance envelope found on the large brown table in the back of our church. If you have more than two names, please write all the names on a separate piece of paper and slip it into the remembrance offering envelope. All names will be printed in the bulletin after Christmas.

Becoming Catholic

Perhaps you are moved by the beauty of the Mass. Maybe the Catholic Church's strong promotion of the sanctity of human life and her other social teachings attract you. Or a friend or family member is a Catholic and you admire that person's faith life and spirituality. Whatever the reasons or however strong they may be, you may be considering becoming a member of the Catholic Church. Just how does a person become a Catholic? The RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS (RCIA) is the journey adults make together in deepening one's relationship with Jesus Christ and His living Body, the Church. It is a period of spiritual formation, prayer and education. The RCIA is not a program of classes. Any person is welcome to consider beginning the RCIA: the person with a deep level of faith through another religious tradition, the person who has had some experience with religion, and the person who has never had any formal formation in a faith tradition. All persons, baptized and not baptized, are welcome. The first phase of the RCIA is called INQUIRY. This is the informal period, held weekly, in which a person simply comes with questions and curiosity. The Inquiry period is ongoing; there is no start or stopping date. A person may "step in" at any time. If a person decides he/she wants to continue, he/she is welcomed to the next phase, called the CATECHUMENATE. This is a period of several months in which the participants learn more about the full revelation of Christianity in the Catholic Church. Generally, new Catholics are welcomed into the Church each year at the Easter Vigil, the Mass the night before Easter Sunday morning. Persons baptized in other Christian traditions are received into the Church through their making a Declaration of Faith. Persons never baptized receive the Sacrament of Baptism. There may be other times of the year when new Catholics enter the Church's family of faith. If you are interested or curious, please contact Marilyn at 908-459-4483.

SPONSOR FORMS

Before you are asked to be a sponsor for a Baptism or for the Sacrament of Confirmation please be sure you are indeed a registered member, in good standing, of your church. This happens a lot around this time of year where people have been coming to church on a regular basis, not using offering envelopes, and think they are members. It makes it very difficult for us to issue a sponsor certificate when you are not registered and the priest does not recognize your face. This



also applies to Confirmation students wanting their older siblings to be their sponsors--make sure they are attending and are greeting the priest (or Diane Francis) after Mass. Please contact the church office if you have questions, 637-4269.

