

SACRED HEART CATHOLIC PARISH

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Fr. Bob Barricks, Pastor

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PARISH OFFICE HOURS: Mon – Thursday, 8:30 am – 12:30 pm

Office is closed on Friday, Saturday and Sunday's

Sacrament of Reconciliation: Saturday, 4:00 – 4:15 pm

Masses: Wednesday, Thursday and Friday 11:00 am

Saturday, 4:30 pm; Sunday 10:00 am



Dec 29th, 2024

Padre's Portion.... And so Jesus wasn't born in the inn.

There is a Christian tradition about the spot where Jesus was born. There is a church in Bethlehem that was built over the very spot where Jesus was said to have laid in a manger. It is considered so holy, that three different Christian traditions, Catholic and Orthodox, have laid claim to it for centuries, and now they all have monks that live there, and there is sort of an uneasy truce. The monks still, to this day, sometimes even have fist fights over the space.

Now, I don't think that's what Jesus wants for the place he was born. I'm not even sure if that's the exact place he was born in or not, or if it even matters. But what I am sure of is that we remember that place where Christ was first born. We remember it enough to want to know exactly where it was, and to keep that place holy.

You know what we don't remember? We don't remember the name of the inn.

Was it the Bethlehem Hotel? The Road to Nazareth Convention Center? The Holiday Inn?

We'll never know. But I often wonder if the inn ever realized who they turned away. I wonder if a few decades down the line, they realized that when Jesus' mom had come to the door, they hadn't given her a room. They'd given her some hay.

Now, if this was just a story about an innkeeper who missed a chance to open the doors to Christ over 2,000 years ago, I wouldn't be telling it Christmas Eve. But this isn't about what an innkeeper did 2,000 years ago. It's about what God did, and what God still does. And it's about what we do next.

Christ still comes into this world. Christmas still happens. It didn't just happen once; it happens all the time. Sometimes God knocks at our doors, and we are asked if there is room in the inn. And sometimes we look out, and we don't really like what we see, or we don't like what it would mean to let Christ in, and we close the door and say: "There's no place for you here".

But sometimes, even when we don't really want to, even when we're not sure we want to open that door up, we do anyway. And that matters. Because Christmas may be about the story that we read. It may be about Mary and Joseph, and the baby and the manger, and no room at the inn. But that story teaches us about more than just an event that happened centuries ago. It teaches us about opening ourselves up to what God is trying to do in us in this world. And it's about telling God that, even if we don't know what it means yet, there is room for God in our lives, and we want to be part of what God is doing.

There's a good chance that if you were there Christmas Eve, some part of you wants to be a part of that. Some part of you wants to be a part of love made real, of God being active in our world, of a world that can change. Some part of you wants to be a part of the Christmas story. Maybe not the one that's written in the book with the shepherds and the manger and the wise men, but a part of the Christmas story, nonetheless.

The denomination that this church is a part of, the United Church of Christ, has a saying that I've always liked. We say, "God is still speaking." I believe that. I believe that God is not only still speaking, but God is still active in this world, and God is still writing the Christmas story. God is still writing the story of what happened when Christ came into this world as the Prince of Peace, and what happened next. And you can be a part of that story. The question is, do you want to be the inn that closed its doors. Or do you want to be something else.

Scripture tells us that out in the fields, the shepherds heard the baby had been born. And they got up and they came to the manger and saw the new thing that God had just done in the world.

That's who I want to be on Christmas Eve, and every day. I want to be the one who doesn't close the doors to my heart when God is about to do something new, but the one who hears about it, and comes running. When God works in this world, I want to be a part of that story. Like that piece of ground in Bethlehem, I want to be the everyday thing, that becomes holy, not because of who I am, but because of who Christ is. I want to be a part of the story.

I can be. And so can you. And so can we all.

Mass Intentions for Dec 28th – Jan 5th

Sat, Dec 28 th	4:30 pm	Parishioners
Sun, Dec 29 th	10:00 am	+JoAnne Battilega – The Battilega Family
Wed, Jan 1 st	10:00 am	For all the Families of our Parish
Thur, Jan 2 nd	11:00 am	The Megerts – Bev Parscale
Fri, Jan 3 rd	11:00 am	Mary Sue Kretsch – Joanne Hoffart
Sat, Jan 4 th	4:30 pm	Ella Rivelli – Mom & Dad
Sun, Jan 5 th	10:00 am	Parishioners

The Epiphany of the Lord

Isaiah 60:1-6 (20ABC)
 Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6
 Matthew 2:1-12

This week at Sacred Heart

Wednesday	Mass at 11:00am , Rosary precedes Mass at 10:40am.
Thursday	Mass at 11:00am , Rosary precedes Mass at 10:40am.
Friday	Mass at 11:00am , Rosary precedes Mass at 10:40am. CIR Mtg@6pm in the Rectory basement
Saturday	Saturday Mass at 4:30pm
Sunday	Sunday Mass at 10:00am. Coffee and Donuts after Mass

Please mark your calendar for Sunday, January 12th. The pastoral council is hosting their sack lunch making for the homeless after the 10:00am Mass and needs volunteers to help make this event a success again. If you are unable to help make lunches you can also help out with a donation to help purchase items for the lunches or donate granola bars or snack items that can be added to the lunches.

10 things to know about Jubilee 2025, the Holy Year that began Dec. 24

One of the most important observances of a Jubilee Year is pilgrimage, recalling the need for silence and recollection, forming friendships with fellow travelers, and seeking Christ, who is the way and the gateway to eternal life. Knowing that very few of us can travel to Rome to pass through the jubilee's Holy Doors, Archbishop Sample has designated 10 pilgrimage sites throughout the Archdiocese, where the faithful will be able to pray and unite themselves spiritually with all pilgrims.

PILGRIMAGE SITES IN WESTERN OREGON

**ST. MARY'S CATHEDRAL, PORTLAND - THE GROTTA, PORTLAND – HOLY ROSARY, PORTLAND -
 OUR LADY OF LAVANG, HAPPY VALLEY – ST. PAUL, ST. PAUL – ST. VINCENT DE PAUL, SALEM –
 ST. ALICE, SPRINGFIELD – SHEPHERD OF THE VALLEY, CENTRAL POINT – SACRED HEART, NEWPORT –
 ST. MONICA, COOSBAY**

TO FIND OUT MORE GO TO:

www.osvnews.com/2024/12/17/10-things-to-know-about-jubilee-2025-the-holy-year-that-begins-dec-24/

PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS THE SICK AND THOSE WITH SPECIAL NEEDS:

Tony Adler, Melissa Anderson, Raemarie Arrigotti, Gloria Bigej, Kim Crittelli, Ron Etzel (Bev Parscale's brother), Paul Feltz, Nancy Fiorante, Mike Hanslits, Sue Unfred Hays (Helen Unfred's daughter), Michele Heckenberger, Joe Hennesey, Joe and Jake Hoffart, Pam Hren, RuthAnn Kessler, Harold LeBlanc(Friend of the Middendorff's), Jen Lanning(Lynne & Ron's DIL), Bill McCuin, Pam (friend of Lisa Hodge), Susan Neidenbach, Steven O'Neal, Julie Oster (Jeanne Thomas' sister), Paul Rager, Bill & Alice Rose, Conor Ryan, Angela Schmitz(Friend of the Millers), Todd Small (Bev Parscale's cousin), Debbie Smeraglio, Dave Standley (Shalee Stacey's Father), Michael Tanda(Judy Caruso's relative), Michelle Whiteaker, Jim Wieland, Ron Zaraza, Kory Zimmerman

Ministry Schedule for the weekend of Jan 4th & Jan 5th

Greeters	Carol Miner & 1Needed	Larry & Sylvia Kelner
Lectors	Carol Pomante	Frank Battilega
Cups	Laura Mae McCuin & Sue Rivelli	Joyce LaBarre & Diane Boland
Altar Server	Char Parr	Clayton Stacey
Ushers	Gary Lanctot & John McNulty	Larry Kelner & 1 Needed
Coffee & Donuts	NA	Amy Delegato & Carol Middendorff
Sacristan	Florence Dezeix	Dale Hodge

Parish Staff

Michel Thorsteinson, Book Keeper	m.thorsteinson@sacredheartportland.org	Marie Phillippi, Music Director
Lisa Rivelli, Administrative Asst.	l.rivelli@sacredheartportland.org	Sue Rivelli, Parish Visitor
Shelley Samuels, Secretary	s.samuels@sacredheartportland.org	
Jennifer Anderson, RE Teacher	j.anderson@sacredheartportland.org	