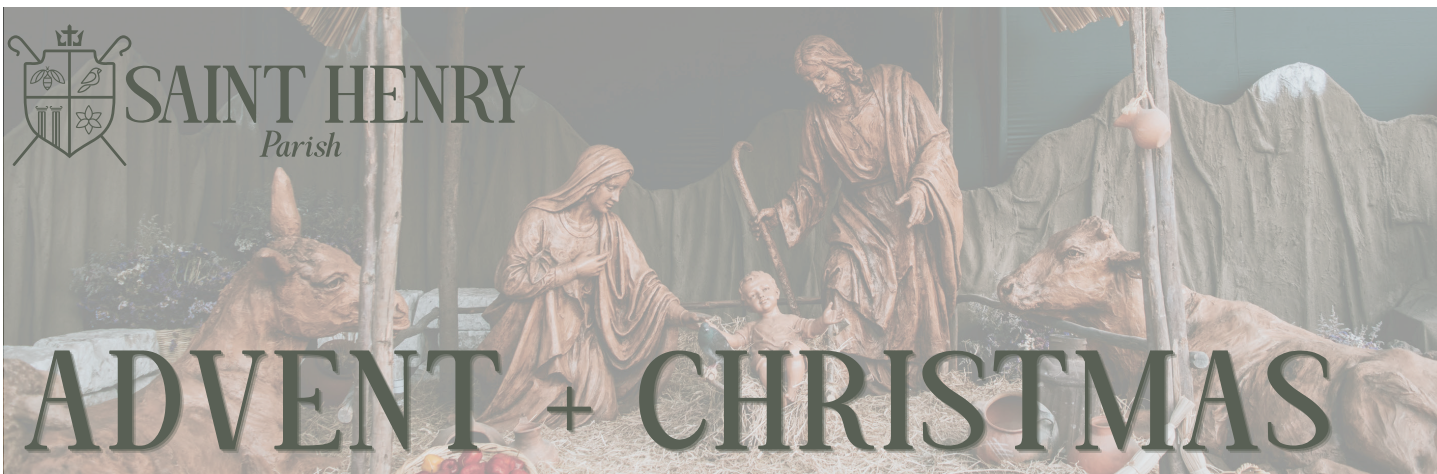




### **BIRTHDAY IN BETHLEHEM:**

- Dec. 14, 6:30pm - St. Henry HS Commons

### **RORATE CAELI MASS:**

- Saturday, Dec. 6
  - 6:30am - St. Francis
  - Social (coffee/donuts) to follow
  - Confessions available 8:30am-10am
  - No 8:00am Mass at St. Bernard

### **IMMACULATE CONCEPTION MASSES\*:**

- Monday, Dec. 8
  - No 7:15am Mass at St. Wendelin
  - 7:00am - St. Henry
  - 12:00pm - St. Henry
  - 5:00pm - St. Henry
  - 7:00pm - St. Bernard

### **CONFESSIONS:**

- Saturday, Dec. 6, 8:30am-10am at St. Francis
- Wednesday, Dec. 10, 8am-12pm at St. Henry
- Saturday, Dec. 13, 8:30am-10am at St. Bernard
- Wednesday, Dec. 17, 2pm-8pm at St. Henry
- Saturday, Dec. 20, 8:30am-10am at St. Bernard

#### **Regular, Weekly Confession:**

- Monday - Friday, after morning Mass
- Tuesday, St. Henry 7:00pm - 8:30pm\*
- Wednesday, St. Henry 11:15am -11:45am
- Thursday, St. Henry 7:00pm - 8:30pm\*
- Saturday, St. Henry 3:15pm - 4:15pm
- Sunday, St. Henry 7:30am - 8:15am
- Sunday, St. Bernard 8:00am - 8:45am

*\*During Advent, confession will start at 7pm (instead of the usual 7:30pm).*

### **NATIVITY OF THE LORD MASSES\*:**

- Christmas Eve, Wednesday, Dec. 24
  - No 12:00pm Mass at St. Henry
  - 4:30pm - St. Bernard & St. Henry
  - 11:00pm - St. Henry
- Christmas, Thursday, Dec. 25
  - 7:30am - St. Aloysius
  - 8:30am - St. Wendelin & St. Francis
  - 9:00am - St. Bernard
  - 10:30am - St. Henry

### **MARY, MOTHER OF GOD MASS\*:**

- New Years Eve, Wednesday, Dec. 31
  - No 12:00pm Mass at St. Henry
  - 5:30pm - St. Bernard & St. Henry
- New Years Day, Thursday, Jan. 1
  - No 7:15am Mass at St. Aloysius
  - 9:00am - St. Bernard
  - 11:00am - St. Henry

### **ADORATION SCHEDULE CHANGES:**

- Dec. 8 - closed, opens Dec. 9 at 9:00am
  - Dec. 22-Jan. 2 - closed, opens Jan. 5 at 8:00am
- Adoration is normally open from 8:00am Monday through 5:00pm Friday at St. Wendelin.*

### **REGULAR, WEEKDAY MASSES:**

- Monday, St. Wendelin 7:15am
- Tuesday, St. Bernard 7:15am
- Wednesday, St. Francis 7:15am
- Wednesday, St. Henry 12:00pm
- Thursday, St. Aloysius 7:15am
- Friday, St. Henry 7:15am
- Saturday, St. Bernard 8:00am

*\*Holy days of obligation.*

# RORATE CAELI MASS

The Rorate Caeli Mass gets its name from the antiphon recited at the beginning of Mass: "Rorate Caeli desuper, et nubes pluant justum" - "Drop down dew, ye Heavens from above, and let the clouds rain down the just." The Mass is offered in honor of the Blessed Virgin Mary on a Saturday during Advent where we enter into the memory and longing of the Blessed Mother as she awaited the coming of the Just One, when after centuries of yearning, the Heavens would open up and rain down our Savior upon humankind at Christmas. Traditionally, this Mass is offered before daybreak, and the only light is provided by candles surrounding the altar. It is also known as the "Golden Mass", due to the beautiful prayers and chants, and the golden hue from the candlelight. As Mass concludes, the sun will be in the first stages of rising, symbolizing how God's people look "to the East" as we await the coming of Christ, whom He promised would rise like the sun to illuminate the darkness of earth, first at Christmas, but then again at His Second Coming. As this Mass is offered in honor of our Blessed Mother, we take time during our preparations of Advent to enter into the heart of Mary, to learn from her love and longing for Jesus. Even though this Mass is being offered very early in the day, I invite all of you to consider attending this very special celebration as part of your own preparations for Christmas, when we are called to remember our own need to welcome the Just One, who rains down from Heaven, into the darkness of our own world and our own life so that He can soften us with the dew of His grace, and fill us with His light and His love.

# WHY TELL MY SINS TO THE PRIEST?

God the Father sent His only begotten Son to be made the perfect sacrifice for the forgiveness of our sins. Our Lord died on the cross so that we would have this grace, the grace of forgiveness of our sins, the grace of conversion of our hearts to Him. In His abundant love for us Jesus Christ, in His earthly life over 2000 years ago, gave to us the gift of the Sacrament of Confession. Christ says, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent Me, even so I send you." And when He had said this, He breathed on them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.'" (Jn. 20:21-23) In this moment Christ gave the Apostles, the first bishops of the Catholic Church, the power and responsibility to forgive people of their sins. This power and responsibility has been handed down through the years to bishops and priests through the ordained Priesthood of Jesus Christ. It is through the priesthood that we have many of the sacraments (including the Holy Eucharist and Confession...etc.) that Christ Himself instituted as sources of grace. The Incarnate Son of God pours out His love and mercy through the sacrament of Confession. It is as if we tell our sins directly to Jesus Himself when we go to confession because it is Christ through the priest that He forgives us of our sins.