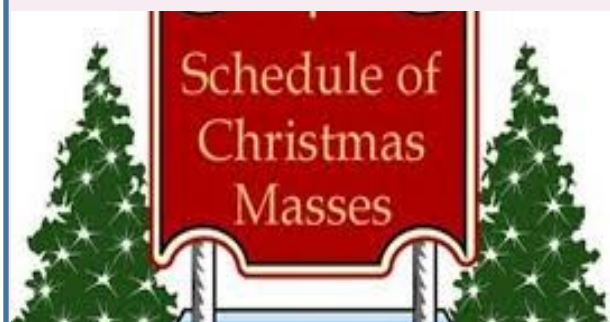


ADVENT PENANCE RITE



Everyone has something to clean out, especially inside our souls—the dwelling place of God. Hence, we have scheduled an Advent Penance Rite on Thursday, December 21st to help us with our spiritual preparation for the coming of the Lord—first, as the Incarnate Son of God, born to us; and second, His final coming as Judge of the living and the dead. We will have a number of priests to offer the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Come as a family to receive God's mercy.

CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE



Christmas falls on a Monday. Here's the schedule:
10am Sunday December 24 — 4th Sunday of Advent
5pm Sunday December 24 — Christmas Vigil
12am December 25 — Midnight Mass
9am December 25 — Christmas Day Mass
5:30pm December 27 — St. John the Evangelist
December 30/31 — Feast of Holy Family
January 1 — Mother of God (New Year Mass)

ORDER YOUR SHIRT FOR THE COMING FEAST



We still have the order-sheet available at the foyer of the Church for parish families that would like to order shirts for Christmas and the celebration of our parish feast day come December 27th this year. You may order some for your children living out of town or for a friend or acquaintance. We have the shirts in two colors, gray and burgundy. The cost is \$25 for kids and youth, and \$30 for the adult sizes. Orders placed after Friday, December 15th will be fulfilled in January 2024.

CHRISTMAS PARTY & FAMILY FEAST



The parish feast day and Christmas celebration is on Wednesday in the Octave of Christmas, December 27th, feast of St. John the Evangelist. We begin with Mass at 5:30pm followed by a grand reception at the parish hall. You may wear the parish outfit for the Mass and the party afterward. The cut-off date to sign-up is this coming Tuesday. If you still plan to attend, please do so after any of the Masses this weekend or call before the close of office on Tuesday, 19th December.

PARKING LOT REPAIR



We want to use this medium to thank those parishioners who have reached out with financial support for the repairs of the parking lot. We received both cash and stock donations as well as pro bono services that brought us close to paying in full for the repairs. If you still wish to donate toward the project, please reach out to Fr. Jo or call the office for your support. We will let everyone know how much support we got and from whom. Thank you for your generous help.

VOTIVE CANDLES AND OFFERING



When we light a candle at the altar of a particular saint or a devotion stand, we intercede with the saint for some benefit from God. It also signals the love and devotion of the person who lights the candle, long after they have left. Usually a stipulated amount is prescribed for each type of candle. In our church, we have a large candle that we request a minimum of \$3 to light and a smaller candle for 50 cents. The stipend is used for replacing the candles after they are burned out. Please do not light a candle without putting the minimum offering.

2023/24 CALENDAR AND FEASTDAYS



Kindly pick up from the back of the church the 2023/24 yearly calendar of liturgical feast and celebrations of saints. This calendar is provided to us free every year courtesy of Harkins & Bishops Funeral Services. It's a big expense that they underwrite for us annually. We want to assure them our prayers and support. We also call on parishioners who have businesses or have influence in their workplace or business to consider advertising in our bulletin.

YOUR END OF THE YEAR GIFT FOR THE PARISH

As 2023 draws to a close, we request your help in covering our expenses for the year. It has been a tough year financially with inflationary rise in the cost of running the parish as well as the numerous projects that we have undertaken, or are underway. Your gift of stock or cash can help a great deal. We appreciate the effort of those generous parishioners who have always helped, and plead with others to remember the parish when you make your financial decisions this year's end.



Year-End Giving





THURSDAY FAITH ENRICHMENT MEETINGS ON HIATUS

Our Thursday Faith Enrichment meeting goes on hiatus for the rest of this year 2023. We will resume our meetings in January 2024. Watch out for the announcement on when our resumption date will be. Happy Advent and Merry Christmas to all.



NATIONAL EUCHARISTIC CONGRESS, 2024

The National Eucharistic Congress taking place in Indianapolis, from July 17–21, 2024 will be a transformative moment for the Church in the USA. It will be the high point of the Eucharistic Revival. You can be part of this historic event, as Catholics from around the country gather for this weeklong grace-filled event. If you're interested in attending, call the office or talk to our parish point person, Kelly Drusen, for details.