

**ST. AUGUSTINE OF CANTERBURY**

**HECKER, ILLINOIS 62248**

**REV. LINUS UMOREN, ADMINISTRATOR**

**PARISH OFFICE 618-473-2217 FAX 618-473-9141**

**E-MAIL ADDRESS: [staug@htc.net](mailto:staug@htc.net)**

**PARISH WEBSITE: <https://www.staugustineofcanterburyhecker.com>**

**To contact Father Linus Umoren, CM; when not in Parish Office,  
Cell #618-666-2217**

**St. Vincent de Paul Help Line 618-792-4059**

**House of Neighborly Service Help Line 618-939-8680**

**Confessions: heard each Saturday night from 4 to 4:45 pm**

**Parish Office Hours: Mondays and Thursdays, 8:30 am to 3:00 pm.**

**VOL. 58 NO. 49– December 3rd, 2023**

**THEME FOR THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT:** Lord, rend the heavens and come down. Come and save us from our sins. Let us turn again to you and so be found blameless when you return in glory.

**MASS INTENTIONS:**

- Fri. 12/1 8:00am- Jeanette Scheibe
- Sat. 12/2 5:00pm- For Our Parish at St. Augustine's  
Sun. 12/3 8:00am- Virginia Parker
- Fri. 12/8 8:00am- For Our Parish at St. Augustine's
- Sat. 12/9 5:00pm- For Our Parish at St. Augustine's  
Sun. 12/10 8:00am- Agnes & Cletus Gregson, John Link, and Ed Weiler



Anointing of the Sick  
will be **THIS** weekend  
following both  
Masses.

**OUR SACRIFICE MADE TO GOD FROM PAST TWO WEEKENDS-**

**11-19-23:**

Envelopes (37)- \$1,961.00

Loose- \$202.00

Youth-\$11.00

**11-26-23:**

Envelopes (37)-\$1,262.00

Loose-\$162.00

Parking Lot/Resolution Projects Donations-**\$2,700.00**

**Scholarship Fund - \$1,388.00 (Total Donated since  
8/1/2023)**

**Thank you very much for your generosity!**

## SCHEDULE FOR THE WEEK

### Saturday, December 9th, 5pm

Set Up: Elaine Rader

Servers:

Lector: Elaine Rader

Extraordinary Minister: Angie Kern

Extraordinary Minister (W): Barb Bruss

Extraordinary Minister (W): Gary Wittenauer

Camera:

### Sunday, December 10th, 8:00am

Set Up: Arnie Eckart

Servers: Tim Donius

Lector: Jonella Donius

Extraordinary Minister: Margie Holle

Extraordinary Minister (W): Tiffany Gregson

Extraordinary Minister (W): Ruth Wittenauer

Camera:

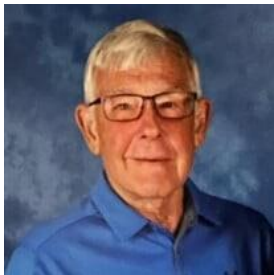
### **Please pray for the following:**

Darlene Frisch, Jeanelle Dinan, Marge Abel, Madalyn Killebrew, Kenny Kern, Marcia Rheinecker, Ricky Wittenauer, Lois Papenberg, Ava Kern, Nancy Grohmann, Jim & Joanne Cowell, Helen Parker, Mike Rheinecker, Gary Brinkman, Doris (Neff) Firnkens, Evelyn Kelley Marquart, Roger Cortner, Frank Kohler, Josh Middendorf, Ethel Mae Kreher, Heather Grohmann Kurtz, Shirley Wittenauer, Annette Lovelace, Mel Parker, Debra Harbaugh, and Geri Griffin.

For Active Service Personnel: Justin S. Bushong, United States Coast Guard, Austin Grohmann, United States Marine Corps, and Austin Gregson, United States Marine Corps.



**PRAY FOR** Sr. Annette Embrich, Adorer of the Blood of Christ and sister of Mary Kelley, who died and was buried recently. Please remember her and her family in your prayers. May her soul and all souls of the faithfully departed, rest in peace.



**PRAY FOR** James Tyberendt, brother-in-law to Mel & Barb Parker, who died and was buried this past week. Please remember him and his family in your prayers. May his soul and all souls of the faithfully departed, rest in peace.

# FROM THE PASTOR...

FR. LINUS UMOREN. C.M.

## First Sunday of Advent-Year B

*A priest was greeting parishioners on their way out of the Church after mass. He had a patch on his chin. "I am sorry about the bandage, what happened Father?" asked one concerned parishioner. "Oh, I cut my chin shaving thinking about my sermon," replied the priest. Suddenly a voice behind the line said, "Next time, why not think about your chin and cut the sermon?"*

This weekend, Catholics and some other Christians all over the world begin a new liturgical year: Cycle B. The liturgical year always begins with the season of Advent.

Unfortunately for most Christians, the season of Advent is not as significant as the secular activities of the period between Thanksgiving and Christmas. During this period, people talk more about Black Friday sales, Cyber Monday sales, and Christmas sales.

However, the time of Advent which goes mostly unnoticed by many people invites us to enter into a daily reflection and seek out space to live the hope of the expected Messiah. The season brings us gradually to the door of Bethlehem where God's love and humility are personified in the mystery of the incarnation. During the four weeks prior to Christmas, we light the candles of our Advent wreaths and put ourselves in the spiritual space of the Israelites who, through many centuries, waited for the coming of the Messiah.

The readings of this Advent season take us through the state of the world into which God becomes flesh and dwells among us. The stories that lead us to the in-breaking of God into human history put Angel Gabriel, John the Baptist, Joseph, and Mary as central figures and instruments of God's mystery.

This weekend, the parish will bless the advent wreath. The wreath is a Christian tradition that symbolizes the passage of the four weeks of Advent such that each candle is lit on each of the weekends of Advent. Many Advent wreaths also have a white candle, the fifth in the center sometimes known as the "Christ candle." This is lit on Christmas day. Thus, in Advent, we celebrate the four pillars of Christmas: hope, peace, love, and Joy, and of course, on Christmas day, we celebrate Christ the Emmanuel.

### **Diocesan Christmas Dinner**

*The Catholic Diocese of Belleville will sponsor the annual Diocesan Christmas Dinner on Christmas Day, Monday, December 25, at 11:30 a.m. in the Monsignor Bernard Voss Parish Center of St. Henry Parish, 5303 West Main Street, Belleville. Meals can also be delivered to those who are disabled/homebound (three meals maximum for delivery). If you or someone you know live alone and would like to attend the dinner or need a meal delivered, please call 618-722-5024 no later than December 15, 2023.*

## **2023 DIOCESAN CHRISTMAS DINNER**

### **CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF BELLEVILLE**

**Monday, December 25, 2023**  
**Msgr. Bernard Voss Parish Center, St. Henry Parish**  
**5303 West Main Street, Belleville**

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## **REGISTRATION FORM**

**INDIVIDUALS** please fill out the **TOP** of the form only. If you will be bringing your **FAMILY** to St. Henry's, please continue filling out the **BOTTOM** of the form. **Please Print!**

**NAME:**

\_\_\_\_\_

**CHURCH OR PARISH:**

\_\_\_\_\_

**YOUR STREET ADDRESS:**

**APT#:** \_\_\_\_\_

**CITY:** \_\_\_\_\_ **ZIP CODE:** \_\_\_\_\_ **PHONE:**

\_\_\_\_\_

**CHECK ONLY ONE:**  **ATTENDING**

**CANNOT ATTEND – PLEASE DELIVER A MEAL** (for disabled and/or those who are homebound)

\_\_\_\_\_ # of meals requested (3 maximum if delivered)

The dinner will be served at 11:30 A.M. on Christmas Day, December 25, in the Msgr. Bernard Voss Parish Center of St. Henry Parish, 5303 West Main Street in Belleville.

**To make your reservations or request a meal delivery, please return this form or call 618-722-5024 NO LATER THAN DECEMBER 15<sup>TH</sup>.** Please mail requests to: Christmas Dinner Reservations

**Catholic Diocese of Belleville**  
**222 South Third Street**  
**Belleville, IL 62220**

**NAMES OF FAMILY MEMBERS IF ATTENDING AT ST. HENRY'S** (Please include **GENDER** and **AGE** of all children):

1. \_\_\_\_\_ (Adult Member of Family)

2. \_\_\_\_\_ (Adult Member of Family)

3. \_\_\_\_\_ (Child) Gender: M \_\_\_ or F \_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_ (Child) Gender: M \_\_\_ or F \_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_



# NEWS FROM GIBUALT HIGH SCHOOL

## **Future Hawk Night**

All grade schoolers are invited to Future Hawk Night at December 9<sup>th</sup>'s Boys' Basketball Game. Come for the ICS vs. SPPCS Funderwear game at 3:30 p.m. and then stay to watch the Gibault Hawks. JV begins at 5:15 p.m. Future Hawks get in free, sit in the Future Hawks Nest, run out with the team, and win attendance prizes. See you there!

## **Christmas Concert**

All are invited to the Gibault Catholic Christmas Concert on December 10 beginning at 7 p.m. in the gymnasium.

## **Raffle-Mania**

Raffle-Mania is back with bigger prizes! This year's grand prize has **DOUBLED** to **\$5,000!** Visit <https://givebutter.com/Raffle-Mania> to purchase your tickets!

## **Early Bird Drawing December 1<sup>st</sup> for \$250.**

**GRAND PRIZES of \$5000, \$1000, \$500, and \$250, and 6 @ \$100**

Prizes will be drawn on February 1<sup>st</sup> during Catholic Schools Week.

Tickets are being sold exclusively online. If anyone has difficulty with their online purchase, contact Desiree Frasure at Gibault Catholic High School. ([dfrasure@gibalthawks.com](mailto:dfrasure@gibalthawks.com) or 618-939-3883)

## **Visit Gibault**

Come see what life as a Gibault Hawk is like! On select Tuesdays and Fridays, your 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> grader or current high school student can spend the day at Gibault as a Shadow Visitor. Shadows will be matched with a current student with similar interests and together, they'll attend classes, meet teachers, enjoy lunch in our cafeteria, and more! We also offer Private Tours for the whole family. See our campus and get your questions answered by our Director of Enrollment. Get started at: <https://bit.ly/GCHSInquire>

## **Winter Camps**

The State Champion Gibault Baseball team welcomes 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> graders for its camp on Dec. 27-29. For full camp info and registration forms, visit [www.gibalthawks.com/winter-camps](http://www.gibalthawks.com/winter-camps).

## **Family Sports Pass**

Show you're #gibaultproud all year long! For \$125, Hawk Fans can purchase a Family Pass that covers admission to most of our home games (some exclusions apply.) This pass is valid for girls' and boys' volleyball, girls' and boys' basketball, girls' soccer, softball, baseball, and select boys' soccer home games throughout the 23-24 school year! Visit [GCHSSportsPass.givesmart.com](http://GCHSSportsPass.givesmart.com) to purchase your pass!

## **Breakfast with Santa**

Join our Women's Club for this magical event!

## Ss. Peter and Paul Catholic Church-XLT Adoration

Please join us in church for our next XLT Adoration on Wednesday December 20th from 7 – 8 pm. It will be a great addition to your Advent prayer and preparations. This form of Adoration includes contemporary Christian music, Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Eucharistic procession in church, reading and reflection on the Eucharist, a brief period of quiet Adoration, and Benediction.

### Great Gift Idea!

# Ornament for St. Anne Cradle of Hope



For a \$25 donation, receive a unique ornament that supports this wonderful ministry for families and pregnant moms!

Scan the code or send a check to "St. Anne Cradle of Hope"  
c/o Molly King, Respect Life Apostolate, 222 South Third St.

Belleville, IL 62220

**Include delivery address and name.**

**SUPPLIES ARE LIMITED**





## DIOCESAN INFORMATION

### RESPECT FOR LIFE CORNER

*“The Gospel of Life recognizes the full range of threats against human life, from poverty and malnutrition to murder and war. Particular emphasis, however, is placed on threats to life at its beginning and end—precisely when it is most in need of protection. In modern times, children in their mothers’ wombs and those approaching the end of their lives are certainly among the ‘least of these’ in our world’s estimation.”*

USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities, [respectlife.org/live-the-gospel-of-life](https://respectlife.org/live-the-gospel-of-life)

### DIOCESE OF BELLEVILLE -- PROJECT RACHEL

Project Rachel is an active ministry in the Diocese of Belleville!!! Planned Parenthood continues to see women (some report one woman every 20 minutes six days a week). It is so vital that we be there for these women to offer free and confidential help in their time of need. It is our hope to continue to foster a sense of compassion in our communities making them a safe place to welcome those who suffer after an abortion and encourage reconciliation and healing in Jesus Christ. Those in need of help and counseling can confidentially contact someone by phone or email. Here’s a link to Project Rachel on the diocesan website with additional information: <https://www.diobelle.org/respectlife/project-rachel>.

To stay informed of Pro-Life events in our Diocese, like and follow our FaceBook page,  
Respect Life Apostolate – Belleville

**The Belleville Cursillo will have their annual Christmas Party on Friday, December 8 at 7:30pm at Cathedral in Belleville. We’ll meet in the Notre Dame cafeteria; use the south entrance (green awning) on Harrison Street. Parking is across the street.**

### **The Catholic Service and Ministry Appeal 2023**

***The one who does justice will live in the presence of the Lord - Psalm 15***

The Catholic Service and Ministry Appeal Fund for Ministry provides funding to parishes, schools and organizations throughout our diocese for local projects. A total 17 grants were awarded throughout our diocese in the past year. Help this popular program which funds local projects continue through your gift to this year’s Catholic Service and Ministry Appeal.

***Pledges to Date: 36 \$6,403.00 100% of our goal has been matched!!***

**THANK YOU TO ALL who contributed!!!!**

## VARIOUS QUILT OF THE MONTH RAFFLES IN THE AREA

- St. Michael, Paderborn – January thru December 2023. \$20 per ticket. Contact Sue Walsh 473-2798. Limited number of tickets available in Parish Office at St. Augustine's.
- St. Patrick's Ruma – January thru December 2023; \$20 per ticket; tickets available in the Parish Office at St. Augustine's. Questions call Kathy Schmidt at 618/284-7274.
- St. James, Millstadt – Quilt-A-Rama, Tickets drawn the first Monday of every month during 2023. Tickets are \$25.00 each. See your Parish Office for tickets or contact St. James, 618/476-3513.
- **Our Lady of Good Counsel Renault Quilt of the Month!**  
Tickets are \$25.00 each for the year of drawings. Winner goes back into the box for a chance to be drawn next month. Please call Phyllis at 618-458-6854 or text Lisa 618-444-5544 to purchase a ticket.



**Today's Gospel tells the story of a young girl who receives a most special request from God – become the Mother of His Son. WOW! How would we respond to such a call? Yet we are called each day by God to follow our given vocation in life – mother, father, brother, sister, grandparent, uncle, aunt.... We are called to live in Christ and to bring others to Christ. Do you have a call to the Priesthood? The Consecrated Religious Life? Let Mary's "FIAT" be an example of how to answer our Lord.**



**The Serra Club of St. County** is an organization of Catholic men and women dedicated to foster and affirm vocations to the Priesthood and vowed religious life. Our purpose is to pray for vocations and inform our community the need for vocations. We provide many social events for our Priests, Deacons and Nuns. We sponsor occasional visits to the Seminaries for our grade and high students guided by a priest or a seminarian. Our group meets every first and third Friday of the month at Corpus Christi Parish Hall 206 Rasp St. Shiloh, IL 62269. We begin Mass at 11:00 am, follow by lunch and a brief meeting, and a prominent speaker. Additional information please call Marvin Winkeler (402 214-1155 or Mel Lucash 618-531-4244 **Serra has a new web page: [serrastclair.org](http://serrastclair.org)**

PLEASE PRAY FOR VOCATIONS!



**National Shrine of Our Lady of the Snows – Shrine Grounds and Visitors Center**

**From November 17 through December 31, 2023, 5:00pm to 9:00pm. Indoor activities closed on Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.**

***The Way of Lights Display depicts the journey of Mary and Joseph as they travel to Bethlehem using over 1.5 million beautiful lights. This year, we have added colored lights to celebrate the birth of Jesus and continue to offer activities for young and old alike!***

**Cost: No charge for display, donations accepted and additional charges for some activities.**

**For more information, call 618-397-6700 or visit our website at <https://snows.org/wayoflights>**



*Christmas* at the Cathedral

**Handel's Messiah, Part I**

Sunday, December 10, 2023, 7:30 p.m.

Cathedral of Saint Peter

200 W Harrison St, Belleville, IL 62220

Candelight procession and favorite carols with Masterworks Chorale, Children's Chorus, and Orchestra

*Admission is Free.*

A Christmas Gift to the Community from

**Susan Buckley**

with support by friends of Masterworks Chorale

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

[www.facebook.com/singmasterworks](https://www.facebook.com/singmasterworks)

The Masterworks Chorale is supported in part by the Illinois Arts Council Agency and by the National Endowment for the Arts.



## UPCOMING LOCAL EVENTS/ PICNICS- *UPDATED WEEKLY!!*

- **Queen of Hearts Drawing-** Benefitting Ss. Peter & Paul Catholic School  
*Tuesdays, Outsiders in Waterloo, IL,*  
Ticket sales end @6:30pm, drawings are held @ 7pm
- **St. Barbara's Catholic Church- Parish Hall**  
*2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of each month*  
305 N Front St, Okawville, IL 62271, Doors open @5pm, Bingo @ 6pm  
Food, drinks, and desserts for purchase- All games pay out \$50.00
- **St. Luke's Lunch and Card Party-** St. Luke's Parish, 226 North Church St, Belleville  
*Tuesday, December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2023-* Doors open at 10:30am, Lunch served @ noon,  
Event ends at 3pm; Prok Loin, dressing, gravy, grape salad, roll cake, coffee, & tea;  
\$10.00 includes lunch/tally, Cards and Bingo prizes! Bring canned goods for the pantry.
- **Magical Breakfast With Santa-** 9-12pm, Gibault Catholic High School  
*Sunday, December 10<sup>th</sup>, 2023,* RSVP required- <https://gwcmagicalbreakfast.com/rsvp>



### **Ladies Sodality Christmas Party Luncheon**

**Sunday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 12:30pm**

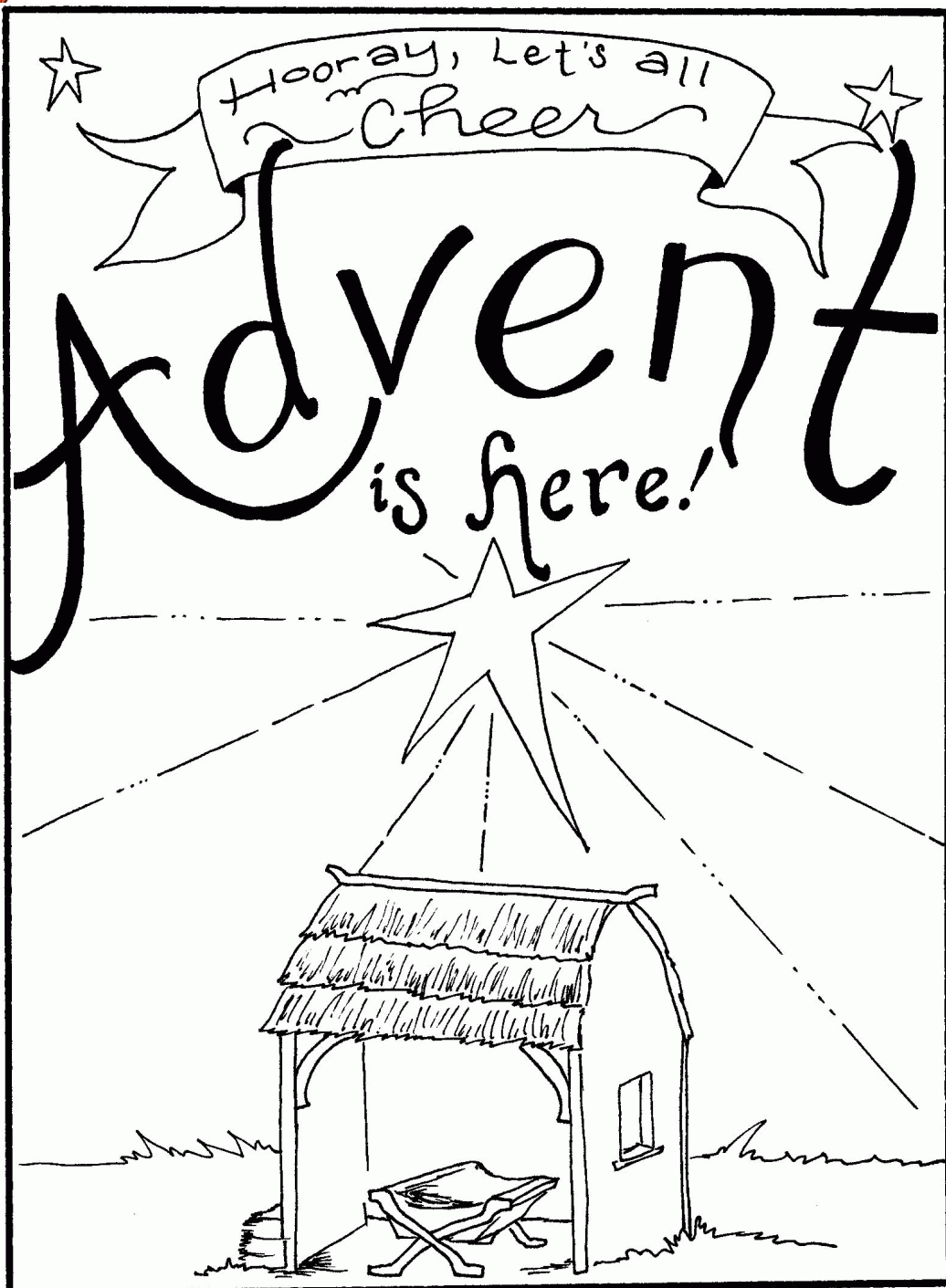
**St. Augustine's Parish Center**

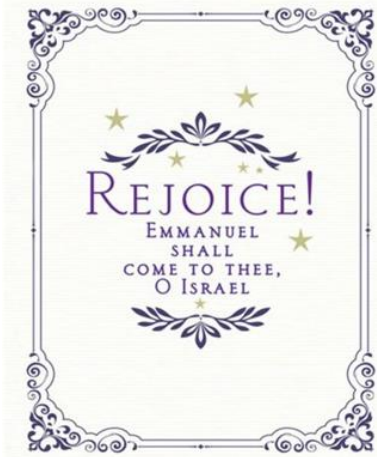
**Point of Contacts are:**

**Annette Schreder (618)473-2925 or Mary Schaltenbrand (618)973-0994**

### **St. Augustine's Parish ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- St. Augustine's Ladies Sodality Christmas Party Sunday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 12:30pm, St. Augustine's Parish Center- Please contact Mary Schaltenbrand or Annette Schreder for more details.
- St. Augustine's 200<sup>th</sup> Year Celebration 1<sup>st</sup> Organizational Committee meeting- Thursday, December 7<sup>th</sup> at 7pm inside the Parish Center.
- SSPPCC Sodality Christmas Party extends an invitation to the ladies of St. Augustine's...December 12<sup>th</sup>, 2023 6pm, to be held in school cafeteria. For more details please contact Debbie Harbaugh or June Valentine.
- Sunday, December 10<sup>th</sup>, 5-6pm- Santa Claus is coming to HHC! Parade by fire truck around town to begin festivities and end with pictures with Santa!





# HOPE

**Week 1**  
**Candle Name:** Prophet's Candle  
**Candle Symbolizes:** Hope  
**Reminds Us:** Jesus is coming

**Verse:** Romans 15:12-13

**Prayer:** O God, by whose word all things are sanctified, pour forth Thy blessing upon this wreath, and grant that we who use it may prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ and may receive from Thee abundant graces. Who livest and reignest forever. Amen.

**Week 4**  
**Candle Name:** Angel's Candle  
**Candle Symbolizes:** Peace  
**Reminds us:** The message of the angels: "Peace on Earth, Good Will Toward Men."

**Verse:** John 3:16-17

**Prayer:** O Lord, stir up Thy power, we pray Thee, and come; and with great might help us, that with the help of Thy grace, Thy merciful forgiveness may hasten what our sins impede. Who livest and reignest forever. Amen.

# PEACE

# FAITH

**Week 2**  
**Candle Name:** Bethlehem Candle  
**Candle Symbolizes:** Faith  
**Reminds Us:** Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem

**Verse:** Luke 3:4-6

**Prayer:** O Lord, stir up our hearts that we may prepare for Thy only begotten Son, that through His coming we may be made worthy to serve Thee with pure minds. Who livest and reignest forever. Amen.

**Week 3**  
**Candle Name:** Shepherd's Candle  
**Candle Symbolizes:** Joy  
**Reminds Us:** The Joy the world experienced at the coming birth of Jesus

**Verse:** Luke 2:7-15

**Prayer:** O Lord, we beg Thee, incline Thy ear to our prayers and enlighten the darkness of our minds by the grace of Thy visitation. Who livest and reignest forever. Amen.

# JOY



Christ Candle  
Light on Christmas Eve

**Verse:** John 1:29