

## MASS SCHEDULE

#### **WEEKEND**

Saturday

4:30pm

Sunday

8:00am, 9:30am, 11:00am

#### WEEKDAY

Monday-Thursday

9:00am

#### CONFESSION

Saturday

3:30-4:00pm

#### **ADORATION**

**Tuesdays** 

9:30am-10:30am

#### **PARISH OFFICE HOURS**

**M- Thurs** 8:00am-4:30pm **Friday** 8:00am-1:00pm

### **NOVEMBER 30, 2025**

## FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

#### **OUR MISSION**

Holy Spirit Catholic Church exists to bring people into a heartfelt relationship with Jesus Christ.

## From the Pastor's Desk: Advent Reflections First Sunday of Advent



#### Dear Friends:

It is hard to believe that Christmas decorations and lights are already appearing on the front lawns of so many homes. Not to mention Christmas music and movies already playing on the radio and TV. Didn't we just celebrate Halloween? As with last year, the retail and commercial world always gets a jump start. And so once again, the Advent Season reminds us to slooooow down and remember what this season is all about.

As we begin this joyful season of Advent, we take the time to prepare for the coming of Christmas and the coming of Christ! There are so many things we might find ourselves doing during this season: decorating, shopping, wrapping gifts, writing Christmas Cards, cleaning the house, attending parties, all with a smile! Of all the things this Season brings, however, there is one special message I hope we all find: the message of HOPE!

With war and fighting among so many Nations, civil unrest in so many American Cities, the grieving of lives lost, prayers for those who are sick, not to mention the stress and tensions of everyday life, so many are crying out for HOPE.

This Advent Season, I am mindful of a few moments of great HOPE. The first came upon the election of Pope Leo XIV. I recall the great excitement on waiting to see who would be elected Pope. Then watching Pope Leo emerge for the first time, praying for the World and the Church with one word: Peace. The Pope asked those gathering in St. Peter's Square to pray the Hail Mary, being mindful of the Mother of God, who always points to her son, Jesus, the prince of Peace!

The other special moment came as our tour group traveling to Ireland this past July made it safely to the tomb of St. Patrick. St. Patrick who brought the Gospel and the faith to all of Ireland. St. Patrick, a great reminder of the HOPE that Jesus brings to all who believe.

May this Advent Season begin with great HOPE for all in Christ Jesus our Lord!

-Fr. John



#### MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

Saturday, November 29 4:30 pm + Susie Pardo

Sunday, November 30– First Sunday of Advent 8:00 am People of Holy Spirit Catholic Church

9:30 am + Mark Larson 11:00 am + Michelle Lax

Monday, December 1 9:00 am + Jennie Izzo

Tuesday, December 2

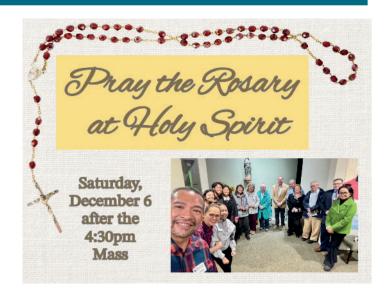
9:00 am + Dave Brockup and Intentions of

Cassandra Lalaine Alunan

Wednesday, December 3– St. Francis Xavier 9:00 am Intentions of Eleanor Fetzko

Thursday, December 4– St. John Damascene 9:00 am + John Skrip







#### Christmas Eve

#### 3:00 PM Mass

Members of the Youth Choir, Parents, and RE students join in the celebration of Carols and Hymns to celebrate the birth of Christ

Accompanied by Piano, Organ, and Strings

#### 5:00 PM Mass

Chris Eubank (Director of Music) and Ed Eubank will lead carols and hymns accompanied by Piano/Organ

#### 9:15 PM Carol Concert

Members of the Adult Choir, Cantors, and the Instrumental Ensemble will perform Carols and Songs before Mass

#### 10:00 PM Mass

Our Adult Choir and Cantors will lead the congregation in glorious hymns to welcome the birth of our Lord

Accompanied by Piano/Organ and Instrumental Ensemble

#### Christmas Day

#### 9:30 AM Mass

Members of the Adult Choir and the Instrumental
Ensemble will lead the congregation in glorious hymns
to welcome the birth of our Lord

Accompanied by Piano/Organ and Instrumental Ensemble

#### 11:00 AM Mass

Music for the Mass will be performed by Piano/Organ, Instrumental Ensemble, and Cantor leading the congregation in glorious hymns for Christmas

# Be a light to our parish community this Advent Season.

We're looking for volunteers to light the Advent Wreath during Mass.

Please scan the QR code to sign up.



#### Forming Building and Grounds Committee

Holy Spirit Catholic Church is blessed with a beautiful 22-year-old church building and parking lot on ten (10) acres of wonderfully landscaped grounds that serve as a place of worship, fellowship, and community. As good stewards of the gifts God has entrusted to us, we are forming a Building and Grounds Committee to help oversee the care, maintenance, improvement and future development of our parish property.

We are seeking parishioners who have experience or interest in areas such as:

- Facilities management or building maintenance;
- Landscaping or grounds care;
- Construction, engineering, or architecture;
- Budgeting, project planning, or fundraising;
- A willingness to help and a heart for stewardship!

The committee will meet periodically to assess needs, prioritize projects, and make recommendations to the pastor, parish leadership team and the finance committee.

If you are interested in serving or would like more information, please contact the parish office at 630-922-0081.

Together, let us care for our parish home so it may continue to welcome and serve all who enter.

"According to the grace of God given to me, like a skilled master builder I laid a foundation, and someone else is building upon it. Let each one take care how he builds upon it." - 1 Corinthians 3:10







## COMING UP AT HOLY SPIRIT

Sunday, November 30

12:00pm Rosary, Church

Monday, December 1

6:00pm K of C Officers' Mtg, Multipurpose Room

Tuesday, December 2

12:30pm Parish Leadership Team, Gathering Place

Wednesday, December 3

9:30am Bible Study, Gathering Place 5:30pm Youth Choir Rehearsal, Church 7:00pm Adult Choir Rehearsal, Church

Thursday, December 4

9:45am Gathered in Prayer, Multipurpose Room

Saturday, December 6

7:00am Men's Ministry, Multipurpose Room

5:30pm Rosary, Narthex

Sunday, December 7

9:00am OCIA, Multipurpose Room 12:00pm Seasoned Spirits, Gathering Place

Tuesday, December 9

12:30pm Parish Leadership Team, Gathering Place 1:00pm Seasons of Hope, Multipurpose Room

Wednesday, December 10

9:30am Bible Study, Gathering Place 5:00pm Youth Choir Rehearsal, Church 7:00pm Adult Choir Rehearsal, Church

Thursday, December 11

9:45am Gathered in Prayer, Multipurpose Room

Friday, December 12

7:00pm Mass for Our Lady of Guadalupe, Church

Saturday, December 13

7:00am Men's Ministry, Multipurpose Room

Bambinelli Sunday (after all Masses)

Saturday, December 14

Bambinelli Sunday (after all Masses)

12:00pm Advent Reconciliation Service, Church



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**%**DISCOVERMASS

# Bambinelli Weekend December 13 and 14, 2025

Bambinelli Sunday is a Catholic tradition, held on the Third Sunday of Advent, where people bring figurines of the baby Jesus ("bambinelli") from their home Nativity scenes to be blessed.

Please bring your
Baby Jesus for a
special blessing,
which will take
place during each
of our weekend
Masses. Then stop
by the Gathering
Place to see
beautiful Nativity
scenes shared by
fellow parishioners
and enjoy some
cookies.









Office of Public Affairs 3211 Fourth Street, NE Washington, DC 20017 202-541-3173 Fax 202-541-3173

## U.S. Bishops Issue a "Special Message" on Immigration

BALTIMORE, NOVEMBER 12, 2025 – As the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) gathered for their Fall Plenary Assembly in Baltimore, the bishops issued a Special Message addressing their concern for the evolving situation impacting immigrants in the United States. It marked the first time in twelve years the USCCB invoked this particularly urgent way of speaking as a body of bishops. The last one issued in 2013 was in response to the federal government's contraceptive mandate.

Under the regulations pertaining to statements and publications of the Conference, a "Special Message" may only be issued at plenary assemblies, and they are statements which the President of the Conference, the Administrative Committee, or the general membership consider to be appropriate in view of the circumstances at the time. To show the consensus of the body, a Special Message must receive two-thirds of the Conference members present and voting at the plenary in order to pass. In a vote of 216 votes in favor, 5 votes against, and 3 abstentions, the bishops overwhelmingly approved the Special Message, with sustained applause of the body following the vote. The full text of the bishops' Special Pastoral Message follows:

As pastors, we the bishops of the United States are bound to our people by ties of communion and compassion in Our Lord Jesus Christ. We are disturbed when we see among our people a climate of fear and anxiety around questions of profiling and immigration enforcement. We are saddened by the state of contemporary debate and the vilification of immigrants. We are concerned about the conditions in detention centers and the lack of access to pastoral care.

We lament that some immigrants in the United States have arbitrarily lost their legal status. We are troubled by threats against the sanctity of houses of worship and the special nature of hospitals and schools. We are grieved when we meet parents who fear being detained when taking their children to school and when we try to console family members who have already been separated from their loved ones.

Despite obstacles and prejudices, generations of immigrants have made enormous contributions to the well-being of our nation. We as Catholic bishops love our country and pray for its peace and prosperity. For this very reason, we feel compelled now in this environment to raise our voices in defense of God-given human dignity.

Catholic teaching exhorts nations to recognize the fundamental dignity of all persons, including immigrants. We bishops advocate for a meaningful reform of our nation's immigration laws and procedures. Human dignity and national security are not in conflict. Both are possible if people of good will work together.

We recognize that nations have a responsibility to regulate their borders and establish a just and orderly immigration system for the sake of the common good. Without such processes, immigrants face the risk of trafficking and other forms of exploitation. Safe and legal pathways serve as an antidote to such risks.

The Church's teaching rests on the foundational concern for the human person, as created in the image and likeness of God (Genesis 1:27). As pastors, we look to Sacred Scripture and the example of the Lord Himself, where we find the wisdom of God's compassion. The priority of the Lord, as the Prophets remind us, is for those

who are most vulnerable: the widow, the orphan, the poor, and the stranger (Zechariah 7:10). In the Lord Jesus, we see the One who became poor for our sake (2 Corinthians 8:9), we see the Good Samaritan who lifts us from the dust (Luke 10:30–37), and we see the One who is found in the least of these (Matthew 25). The Church's concern for neighbor and our concern here for immigrants is a response to the Lord's command to love as He has loved us (John 13:34).

To our immigrant brothers and sisters, we stand with you in your suffering, since, when one member suffers, all suffer (cf. 1 Corinthians 12:26). You are not alone!

We note with gratitude that so many of our clergy, consecrated religious, and lay faithful already accompany and assist immigrants in meeting their basic human needs. We urge all people of good will to continue and expand such efforts.

We oppose the indiscriminate mass deportation of people. We pray for an end to dehumanizing rhetoric and violence, whether directed at immigrants or at law enforcement. We pray that the Lord may guide the leaders of our nation, and we are grateful for past and present opportunities to dialogue with public and elected officials. In this dialogue, we will continue to advocate for meaningful immigration reform.

As disciples of the Lord, we remain men and women of hope, and hope does not disappoint! (cf. Romans 5:5)

May the mantle of Our Lady of Guadalupe enfold us all in her maternal and loving care and draw us ever closer to the heart of Christ.



#### STAFF DIRECTORY

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Parochial Vicar

Rev. Richard Smith frsmith@hscc.us

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Deacon Tim Roberts deacontim@hscc.us

Deacon Mike Ryba deaconmike@hscc.us

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Mary Beth Owens, ext. 93 mbowens@hscc.us

Maintenance

Victor Velazquez maintenance@hscc.us

#### PARISH STEWARDSHIP

It is with grateful hearts that we thank you for your continued support of the parish!

<b>Monthly Offering</b>	#of Donors	Oct. 2025
WeShare Online Giving:	155	\$13,635
Electronic Funds Transfer:	161	\$17,553
Envelopes & Loose Cash:	193	\$44,759
<b>Total October Collection:</b>	509	\$75,947

Year-to-Date July 1, 2025 - October 31, 2025

 Sunday Offering Thru 10/31/25:
 \$320,255

 Fiscal Year Budget Thru 10/31/25:
 \$350,200

 Surplus (Deficit):
 (\$29,945)

Special Offerings - October 2025

Building & Maintenance Fund: \$1,534 World Mission Sunday: \$1,045

#### Consider Electronic Giving!

For information and to select the option that works best for you, please visit www.hscc.us/donation

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- QR Code (one time or reoccurring offering)





People who have had health issues or near-death experiences generally have a greater appreciation for each day being a gift from God. The rest of us usually take for granted that we will be around tomorrow. But when you start to look at each day as a gift, you realize all the little miracles that happen daily and you begin to see God's active presence in your life. You grow in gratitude, each day, for all that we have been given.

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