



ADVENT/CHRISTMAS

First Sunday of Advent

November 28 & 29

Advent Enrichment Opportunity: "Finding God In The Poor"

Saturday, December 5, 9:30 a.m. Breakfast; 10:00 a.m. Reflection in the Meeting Rooms

Immaculate Conception Holy Day Masses

Tuesday, December 8: 8:00 a.m. & 7:00 p.m.

Parish Reconciliation Service

Wednesday, December 16, 7:00 p.m.

Christmas Eve Masses:

Thursday, December 24: 3:30 p.m., 5:30 p.m., 10:00 p.m.

Christmas Day Mass:

Friday, December 25: 10:00 a.m.

Holy Family:

Saturday, December 26, 5:00 p.m., Sunday, December 27, 8:30 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God Holy Day Masses

New Year's Eve, Thursday, December 31: 4:00 p.m.

New Year's Day, Friday, January 1, 2016 : 9:00 a.m.

Epiphany

Saturday, January 2, 5:00 p.m., Sunday, January 3: 8:30 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.

YEAR OF MERCY

Beginning of the Jubilee Year of Mercy

Tuesday, December 8

Adult Faith Formation Presentation "Pilgrimage" with Fr. Tom Curran

Monday, January 25, 2016, 7:00-9:00 p.m.

Holy Spirit Family Mission Trip to Yankton, South Dakota, July 28-31, 2016

Information packet available on the parish website. Deadline to register is in January.

Did you know we are about to begin a Jubilee Year of Mercy?



Pope Francis has called for an Extraordinary Jubilee Holy Year beginning on December 8. The practice of a “Year of Jubilee” is rooted in the Bible and was first used by the ancient Israelites. They

believed that the land belonged to the Lord and had been given to them as a gift. To that end, a Jubilee was practiced every seven years. The year of Jubilee proclaimed the sovereignty of God over time and nature and was to be observed with reverence.

Jesus confirms his own merciful actions towards the poor, the sick, and the lost in the New Testament (Luke 7:22), giving the people of God the example to follow. The first Catholic Holy Year of Jubilee was celebrated in the year 1300. Classic jubilees are celebrated every 25 years; in the 20th century they were in 1900, 1925, 1950, 1975, and 2000.

It is also possible to celebrate extraordinary jubilees to celebrate special events and themes. Pope Francis has designated a Year of Mercy beginning December 8 and ending November 20, 2016. The date of the opening was chosen to coincide with the 50th anniversary of the closing of the Second Vatican Council. Some themes of the Francis’ papal document are Pilgrimage, Reconciliation, and Works of Mercy. You can read the whole papal document at: http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/apost_letters/documents/papa-francesco_bolla_20150411_misericordiae-vultus.html

Please watch the Holy Spirit parish website and bulletin for special events in the coming year, during which we will focus on becoming more of a church through whose doors “anyone who enters will experience the love of God who consoles, pardons, and instills hope.” (Pope Francis).



Themes for the Year of Mercy

Holy Door

- ✚ Doors can be opened to let someone in. Doors can be closed to keep others out.
- ✚ Pope Francis is opening this door of mercy and inviting us in to experience in a deeper way the mercy God shows us.

Pilgrimage

- ✚ A pilgrimage represents the journey each of us makes in this life.
- ✚ We are challenged to move away from our comfort zones and walk out into a new place, a place where there is no judging or condemning.
 - January 25th Fr. Tom Curran, SJ, president of Rockhurst University, will give a presentation here at Holy Spirit on his experience of making a pilgrimage.

Works of Mercy

- ✚ Corporal Works of Mercy, such as: feed the hungry, clothe the naked, welcome the stranger.
- ✚ Spiritual Works of Mercy, such as: comfort the afflicted, forgive offenses, bear patiently those who do us ill.
 - Magnets with the Corporal and Spiritual works of mercy will be given to each family.
 - Put the magnet on your refrigerator where everyone can see it.
 - Learn these works of mercy and practice one each month.

Reconciliation

- ✚ Pope Francis encourages us to know the mercy of God in the ways we experience reconciliation.
- ✚ Celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation at least once during this Year of Mercy. Holy Spirit’s Advent Reconciliation service is 12/16/15 at 7:00 p.m.
- ✚ Invite someone who has not been to church for a while to come to Mass or any of the special services during Advent and Christmas.

Address Poverty

- ✚ “Bring a word and gesture of consolation to the poor, proclaim liberty to those bound by new forms of slavery in modern society, restore sight to those who can see no more because they are caught up in themselves, restore dignity to all those from whom it has been robbed.”
 - Tom Turner and Maria Antonia from Bishop Sullivan Center will be doing a morning of reflection, “Finding God In The Poor” on Saturday, December 5

Other opportunities to enter into this year of mercy will be given throughout the year, opportunities you can practice individually, with your family, or with your parish community.



Finding God IN THE POOR

Sometimes it may feel like God plays "Hide-and-Seek" with us. Tom Turner and Maria Antonia, both on staff at Bishop Sullivan Center, describe some of God's favorite hiding places through videos and stories.

**Saturday, December 5 in the Meeting Rooms
9:30am - Breakfast • 10am - Reflection**

Blessed are the poor ...



Tom Turner, Executive Director of Bishop Sullivan Center and adjunct teacher of philosophy at Avila University for the past 21 years, will share some insights on poverty: our own and others.

Maria Antonia, news journalist for Channel 9 for 28 years, will share how her view of the city has changed since joining Bishop Sullivan Center's staff two years ago.



Childcare will be available.



Holy Spirit Catholic Church

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Do you know any Catholics who are inactive, feel alienated or have been hurt by the church? Our parish wants to reach out to them and welcome them back.

You can help by inviting those you know to attend any of our Masses or special services during Advent and Christmas.

By extending our hands in friendship, we hope to give them a reason and an opportunity to return to our faith community.

