



# Sacred Heart

C a t h o l i c C h u r c h

4087 West Broadway • Robbinsdale, MN 55422

Phone: 763-537-4561

*Formed in His Heart, Serving with His Heart, Giving From His Heart*

We have ended our Mass Sign-Up process for all of the Weekend Masses. Ropes and tape on the pews in Church have been removed and you may sit where you choose.

Join Facebook, and "Like" us:  
[facebook.com/shrobbinsdale](https://facebook.com/shrobbinsdale)

### Saturday—Lord's Day Vigil

4:00 PM Mass - In Church  
5:30 PM - Parking Lot Mass  
\*\* Tune Radio to FM 104.9 \*\*

### Sunday— The Lord's Day

8:00 AM Mass - In Church  
10:00 AM Mass - In Church  
11:35 AM Latin Mass - In Church

### Daily Mass Times

#### Monday:

8:00 AM Communion Service  
followed by Lauds/Morning Prayer

#### Tuesday-Saturday:

8:00 AM Mass  
followed by Lauds/Morning Prayer

### Eucharistic Adoration

The Sacred Heart Chapel will be open for personal prayer and adoration before the monstrance on Thursdays from 9 AM - 6PM

### Parish Office Hours

Open to the General Public.

Parish Web Site: [shrmn.org](http://shrmn.org)

Parish Phone: 763-537-4561

## December 19, 2021



## 4<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT



When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the infant leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth, filled with the Holy Spirit, cried out in a loud voice and said, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb." - Lk 1:41-42

## Parish Directory

Phone: 763-537-4561  
General Email: cshadmin@shrmn.org

### Worship

Priest, Fr. Bryan J.B. Pedersen.....ext. 6240  
fr.bpedersen@shrmn.org 763-285-6240  
Deacon, Dr. James Ramsey.....ext. 6244  
jramsey@shrmn.org 763-285-6244  
Music, Jamie Schmidt .....ext. 6287  
jschmidt@shrmn.org 763-285-6287

### Faith Formation

Director of Adult Faith Formation  
Bunny Brouillard.....ext. 6247  
bbrouillard@shrmn.org 763-285-6247  
Youth & Young Adult Ministry  
Matthew Kruc.....ext. 6243  
mkruc@shrmn.org 763-285-6243  
Faith Formation Associate  
Morgan Leisgang.....ext. 6246  
mleisgang@shrmn.org 763-2856246

### Pastoral Care

Priest, Fr. Bryan J.B. Pedersen.....ext. 6240  
fr.bpedersen@shrmn.org 763-285-6240  
Deacon, Dr. James Ramsey.....ext. 6244  
jramsey@shrmn.org 763-285-6244

### Parish Administration

Bus. Admin., Mary Daugherty.....ext. 6241  
mdaugherty@shrmn.org 763-285-6241  
Bookkeeper, .....ext. 6242  
763-285-6242  
Facility Manager and Maintenance  
Mark Sazama.....ext. 6245  
msazama@shrmn.org 763-285-6245  
Admin. Asst. Facility Scheduling, Office  
Darlene Doran .....ext. 6248  
ddoran@shrmn.org .....763-285-6248  
Sacramental Records  
Safe Environment Coordinator  
Bunny Brouillard.....ext. 6247  
bbrouillard@shrmn.org 763-285-6247

### School

Main Office: 763-537-1329  
Principal, Karen Bursey.....ext. 6255  
kbursey@sacredheartschoolrobbinsdale.org  
Advancement, Admin. Asst.  
Pat Moore.....ext. 6256  
pmoore@sacredheartschoolrobbinsdale.org  
Admin. Asst. Records,  
Sarah Bowback.....ext. 6257  
sbowback@sacredheartschoolrobbinsdale.org

**The Church of the Sacred Heart is served by the clergy of the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis**

**Priest Staff:** Fr. Bryan J.B. Pedersen

**Deacon:** Dr. James Ramsey

# WORSHIP & MEDITATION



WE ARE GOD'S  
INSTRUMENTS

## GOSPEL MEDITATION

### Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

St. Augustine tells us that a “Christian is a mind through which Christ thinks, a heart through which Christ loves, a voice through which Christ speaks and a hand through which Christ helps.” As we look around and out at the world, we do not have to search too far before we come face to face with inequity and injustice. There is so much unfairness, prejudice, anger, hatred, violence, and want. The stories of human heartache, people being hurt, deprived of life’s necessities, loneliness, and sickness are far too commonplace. For many of the world’s ills, the vices of greed, lust, pride, gluttony, and jealousy are clearly among the more significant root causes.

Why doesn’t God just step in and fix this mess? After all, God created this world, and one would hope that he would step up and take some measure of responsibility for it! Once we sit with this thinking for a while, we can begin to realize just how flawed it really is. God did take responsibility and God did fix the problem! God sent us Jesus Christ as the divine solution to the world’s ills. It is not God who has shirked responsibility, we have. We are the ones who continually fail to set our own personal needs, wants, and securities aside so that One more powerful than us can use us.

Mary had to set her needs aside in order for the Son of God to come into the world. Put simply, Mary listened and believed. Having opened herself to being an instrument of the Divine, God could use her as his mind, heart, voice, and hand. She became God’s vessel so that God’s greatness could reach the ends of the earth and peace could come upon the world. God’s fix for the world’s difficulties is you and me. We are the ones who confess that Jesus Christ came into the world as the Son of God, the Prince of Peace, and herald of justice. All we have to do is believe, as did Mary, that what has been spoken to us by the Lord will be fulfilled. Then, we can step aside and be the Christians we claim to be. What a difference it would make if every person who professed to be Christian truly understood that their one and only vocation is to be God’s instrument. What a beautiful, equitable, and just world it would be.

## Appointed Sunday Readings

### 4th Sunday of Advent-12/19/2021

**First Reading:** You, Bethlehem-Ephrathah too small to be among the clans of Judah,... (Mi 5:1)

**Psalm:** Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved. (Ps 80)

**Second Reading:** "Then I said, 'As is written of me in the scroll behold, I come to do your will, O God.'" (Heb 10:7)

**Gospel:** "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. (Lk 1:42-43)

## Latin Mass Sunday Readings

### 4th Sunday of Advent

**Epistle:** Brethren, let a man so account of us as of the ministers of Christ and the dispensers of the mysteries of God. (1 Cor. 4:1-5)

**Gradual:** The Lord is nigh unto all them that call upon Him: to all that call upon Him in truth. (Ps. 144 :18, 21)

**Gospel:** Now in the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar,... (Luke 3:1-6)

## Appointed Daily Readings

### Monday, Dec. 20—Saturday, Dec. 25

**Monday:** Is 7:10-14/Ps 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6 [cf. 7c and 10b]/Lk 1:26-38

**Tuesday:** Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a/Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21 [1a; 3a]/Lk 1:39-45

**Wednesday:** 1 Sm 1:24-28/1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd [cf. 1a]/Lk 1:46-56

**Thursday:** Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10 and 14 [cf. Lk 21:28]/Lk 1:57-66

**Friday: Morning:** 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27 and 29 [2]/Lk 1:67-79

**Saturday: Vigil:** Is 62:1-5/Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29 [2a]/Acts 13:16-17, 22-25/Mt 1:1-25 or 1:18-25

**Night:** Is 9:1-6/Ps 96:1-2, 2-3, 11-12, 13 [Lk 2:11]/Ti 2:11-14/Lk 2:1-14

**Dawn:** Is 62:11-12/Ps 97:1, 6, 11-12/Ti 3:4-7/Lk 2:15-20

**Day:** Is 52:7-10/Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6 [3c]/Heb 1:1-6/Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14

## Prayers of the Faithful

Please remember In your prayers:

**Those Who Are Ill:** Dan Hanley, Donny Cooper, Marlene Tuschen, Lily Wilson, Terry Weasler

**With Chronic Health Concerns:**

Tom Ambrose, Brady Swenson, Mary Jo Faustgen, Bunny Dargis, Andrea DeOtis, Medard Keisershot, Cody Binstock, Carol Borman, Delia Roca, Marlene Tuschen, Ray Swadner, Eleanore Dietrich, Maya Mash

**Those Serving In Our Armed Forces:** Sam Dahlgren-Castilla, Justin Rathbun, Liam Gregory, Jordan Reese, Andrew Gladitsch, Cathal & Cormac O'Connor, Lisette Knaeble, Zachary Wilhelmi

## Administration

### Stewardship-Your Commitment is Vital !

Collections for December 4-5, 2021 (week 23)	Dollars	# Donors
Sunday Envelope Collections	\$ 9,219.00	93
Electronic Donations	\$ 6,930.99	77
Plate (non envelope) Collections	\$ 1,255.00	
<b>Total Collections for Week 23</b>	<b>\$17,404.99</b>	<b>170</b>

### Year-to-date Sunday Collections

	This Year	Last Year	(Behind)
Actual versus last year December 5, 2021 (week 23)	\$265,648	\$250,081	\$15,567
	This Year	Budget	(Behind)
Actual versus Budget December 5, 2021 (week 23)	\$265,648	\$269,755	\$(4,107)

## Job Openings at Sacred Heart

1. Bookkeeper – Full or Part-Time
2. Maintenance Staff – Full or Part-Time

For more information on any of the above positions, please contact Mary Daugherty (Business Administrator) at 763-285-6241.

**Sacred Heart Catholic School is hiring a full time 1st grade teacher, benefits included.** Please contact Karen Burse for more information at [kburse@shcsr.org](mailto:kburse@shcsr.org) or 763-537-1329.

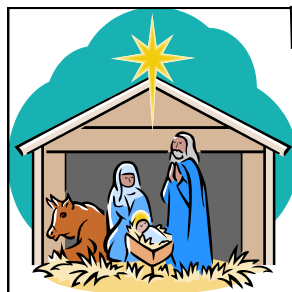
## Christmas Flower Fund

### FLOWER CHRISTMAS FUND

Once again it is time for our Christmas Flower Fund to make donations for flowers to decorate the church. You can drop off your Christmas Flower Fund donation in the Offertory Collection or drop off in the parish office on or before Monday December 20 to be included in the Christmas insert. Thank you!

## Weddings

Congratulations to  
Alexander Leivermann & Caitlin Frances O'Brien  
December 17, 2021



MERRY CHRISTMAS  
Wishing all Sacred Heart  
Parishioners and Visitors  
a Happy and Holy Christmas  
Parish Staff & School Staff

## Sacred Heart Catholic School

Our Fourth Grade students hand crafted cards and sentiments to our residents at St. Therese this last week. The messages were heart felt and thoughtful. They're a great bunch of students!



We celebrated our 3rd week of Advent with a prayer service in the gym on Monday. It's a great way for staff and students to get the week started on the right foot.

Our Athletic Department will be sponsoring a Steak Fry on Wednesday, January 12, 2022 from 5-7 pm at the Crystal VFW. Stop by the Parish Commons Desk and purchase a ticket! The cost is \$12 and includes steak, potato, coleslaw, toast, water and coffee. Takeout is also available.  
5222 Bass Lake Road  
Crystal MN

Like our Facebook Page - [Sacred Heart Catholic School Robbinsdale, MN Alumni/Parent](https://www.facebook.com/SHCSRobbinsdale)  
<http://www.facebook.com/SHCSRobbinsdale>  
Follow us on Twitter - <https://twitter.com/SHCSRobbinsdal1>

## Saint of the Week

### St. Peter Canisius | Feast Day December 21

Born in Holland, St. Peter Canisius (May 8, 1521 – December 21, 1597) was a preacher, teacher, and writer throughout his whole life. At the age of 19, he received a master's degree from the university at Cologne. Soon afterwards, St. Peter met Peter Faber, the first disciple of Ignatius of Loyola, who influenced him so much that he eventually joined the Society of Jesus.

St. Peter Canisius founded colleges and seminaries, served as a missionary, cared for the sick or imprisoned, and wrote close to eight volumes of letters — many about St. Cyril of Alexandria and St. Leo the Great.

A man blessed with many talents, St. Peter Canisius is a wonderful example of a man who developed his talents to further God's work here on earth.

## Youth Ministry

### **BUY COFFEE-SUPPORT OUR YOUTH**

**WE HAVE A NEW SHIPMENT OF COFFEE FOR SALE FROM OUR YOUTH GROUP. MEDIUM ROAST-WHOLE BEAN, OR GROUND BAGS OF COFFEE ARE AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE IN THE PARISH OFFICE. \$13.00 A BAG. THANK YOU.**



## To Join Sacred Heart Parish

If you are new to our community, or have been attending Mass here but have not yet joined Sacred Heart call 763-537-4561 or stop in the parish office to register.

### **Sacrament of Initiation — RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults)**

To join the Catholic Church call Bunny Brouillard in the Parish Office.

### **Sacrament of Baptism for Infants and Children (RCIC)**

Baptism for Infants and young Children is celebrated on the first & third Sundays of the month at 1 PM. Pre-Baptism Class meets on the second Tuesday of the month at 7 PM. To make arrangements call Bunny Brouillard in the Parish Office.

### **Sacrament of Confirmation**

If you are in High School or an Adult who has yet to receive Confirmation contact Matt Kruc or Bunny Brouillard in the Parish Office to make arrangements.

### **Sacrament of Holy Communion**

If you or your child have not yet made your First Holy Communion contact Bunny Brouillard. If you are shut in and would like to receive Holy Communion contact Deacon Ramsey to make arrangements

### **Sacrament of Penance**

See the schedule for confessions or contact Fr. Pedersen to make an appointment. To receive instruction on making a first confession contact the Parish Office.

### **Sacrament of Anointing**

To make arrangements to receive the Sacrament of the Sick or Last Rites contact the Parish Office.

### **Sacrament of Marriage**

Registered Parishioners should call Father Pedersen or Deacon Ramsey at least 8 months in advance of the wedding date to make arrangements.

### **Sacrament of Holy Orders**

Catholic Men contact Fr. Pedersen or Deacon Ramsey for more information on joining the Diaconate or Priesthood.

### **Sunday School**

Open to children ages 3 years through Kindergarten. Meets during the 10 AM Mass October through April. Please call Morgan Timmerman in the Parish Office.

### **Religious Education**

For students grades 1—10. Meets Wed. evening 6:30pm—7:45pm, Oct. through April. Please call Morgan Timmerman or Matt Kruc in the Parish Office.

## Mass Intentions

**\*\*This Schedule is subject to change\*\***

### December

<b>Sun. 19</b>	<b>8:00 AM</b>	Dorothy Hiltner+
	<b>10:00 AM</b>	Parishioners
<b>Latin</b>	<b>11:35 AM</b>	Rev. James R. Himmelsbach+
<b>Mon. 20</b>	<b>8:00 AM</b>	Communion Service
<b>Tues. 21</b>	<b>8:00 AM</b>	Bruce Johnston+
<b>Wed. 22</b>	<b>8:00 AM</b>	David Arnold+
<b>Thu. 23</b>	<b>8:00 AM</b>	Danny Glenn+
<b>Fri. 24</b>	<b>8:00 AM</b>	Bruce Johnston+
	<b>2:00 PM</b>	Clare Meyer+
	<b>4:00 PM</b>	Deacon Tom Coleman+
<b>Parking Lot</b>		
	<b>5:30 PM</b>	Don & Mary Stoll+
<b>F.M.104.9</b>		
<b>Sat. 25</b>	<b>12:00 AM</b>	Pastor's Intention
	<b>8:00 AM</b>	Rev. James R. Himmelsbach+
	<b>10:00 AM</b>	Parishioners
<b>Latin</b>	<b>11:35 AM</b>	Timothy & Michael Culhane; Joseph & Irene Culhane
<b>Sun. 26</b>	<b>8:00 AM</b>	Helen Gangness+
	<b>10:00 AM</b>	Parishioners
<b>Latin</b>	<b>11:35 AM</b>	Rev. James R. Himmelsbach+

### Chapel Open for Prayer:

- Monday: 8:30am - Noon
- Tuesday-Thursday: 8:30am-4:30pm
- Friday: 8:30am - Noon

### Confessions

Daily Tuesday-Saturday 7:40-7:55a.m.  
Saturdays 3:00-3:45pm  
Sign is on Door #8 with Instructions.



## Christmas Mass Schedule

### Christmas Eve: Friday December 24th

2:00 PM-Mass in Church  
4:00 PM-Mass in Church  
5:30 PM-Mass in W. Broadway Parking Lot *Tune your radio to 104.9 FM*

### Christmas Midnight: Saturday December 25th

12:00 AM-Missa in Nocte (Solemn Latin Mass)

### Christmas Day: Saturday December 25th

8:00 AM-Mass at Dawn  
10:00 AM-Mass during the Day  
11:35 AM-Missa in Die (Latin Mass)

**\*\*N.B. There will be NO evening Vigil Masses for Sunday on Saturday December 25th\*\***



## Music Ministry

### Join the Festival Choir & Handbell Choir

The Sacred Heart Festival Choir will rehearse on Tuesday evenings from 7:00-8:00 on December 7, **14** and **21** for the 10am Mass on Christmas Day. The Handbell Choir will rehearse on Tuesday evenings from 6:00-7:00pm on December 7, **14**, and **21** for the **2pm** Mass on Christmas Eve Day. Rehearsals will be in the Liturgical Music room in the church basement. All are welcome! Please contact Jamie Schmidt, Director of Sacred Music with any questions at [jschmidt@shrmn.org](mailto:jschmidt@shrmn.org) or (763) 285-6287.

## Live the Liturgy

Did you ever find yourself wishing that God would just step in and fix all that is wrong with the world? After all, how much longer can all of this go on? There is so much inequity in life. Our world's political, economic, and environmental systems do not always serve the best interests of people. We read stories about injustice, disregard for human life, greed, heartache, and people being hurt and deprived every day. People are still starving and there is often little regard for human life. This is not the way God intended it to be. Realizing that we have caused most of these problems ourselves, we look to God for an answer and a way out of the difficulties we have created. Taking responsibility for our actions is not something that comes easily. What we fail to see is that God has already sent the answer in the person of Jesus Christ. God did fix our problem! Mary had to set her needs aside in order for the Son of Justice to come into the world. We need to do the same. It is only by believing in, listening to, and acting upon what God has spoken that true peace will ever come to be, and God's fix be made known.



## SHCCW-Baby Jesus Shower

The month of December, the Sacred Heart Council of Catholic Women sponsors "The Baby Jesus Shower."

Items donated go to the Robbinsdale Women's Center and Abria North Side Pregnancy Resources.

From the Robbinsdale Women's Center:

### NEW Soft Items:

- Clothing, sleepers and onesies up to size 24 months
- Bibs
- Sleep sacks
- Baby socks and booties
- Burp cloths
- Hooded towels and wash cloths
- Receiving blankets
- Diaper bags
- Boppy Pillows and covers
- Crib sheets
- Pack N Play Sheets

### NEW General Baby Items:

- Diapers and wipes (in sealed packages)
- Bottle sets
- Diaper Genies and refills
- Baby gyms and play mats
- Baby washes, diaper cream, baby lotion, Baby Powder
- Baby laundry detergent
- Baby grooming kit
- Baby monitors
- Strollers
- Pack N Plays
- Bouncy seats

## NEAR Christmas Suggestions



### HOLIDAY SUPPORT FOR

#### NEAR food shelf

( North Suburban Emergency Assistance Response )

*Your \$\$\$ donations are needed by NEAR  
this holiday season for Gift Purchasing*

Monetary donations may be made out to NEAR  
(write "Christmas Gifts" on check memo line)

and include along with your weekly church contribution envelope,  
or drop off at reception desk, OR mailed to NEAR at  
5209 West Broadway Ave., Crystal, MN 55429

### NEAR: Request for food and nonfood donations -

Many of our supporting churches are holding food drives for the holidays. Please note that NEAR can use the following items: Shelf stable food items including boxed and canned meals, coffee, etc.; Personal hygiene items (for men and women - toothpaste, deodorant, etc.); Feminine products; Baby diapers (all sizes) and wipes; Paper products - paper towels and toilet paper.

## News From Other Sources

### Worldwide Marriage Encounter

"Yet, O LORD, you are our father; we are the clay and you the potter; we are all the work of your hands." As we begin the waiting of advent, let us strive to become the work of his hands by attending a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend. The next Weekends are Feb 11-13, 2022 in Buffalo, MN and May 6-8, 2022 in Buffalo, MN. For more information, call Brent & Tracy Chessen at 612-756-8720 or visit them at [twincitieswwme.org](http://twincitieswwme.org).

## Calendar of Events

### Sunday, December 19—4th Sunday of Advent

8:00 AM Mass: Fr. Pedersen  
10:00 AM Mass: Fr. Pedersen  
11:35 AM Latin Mass: Fr. Pedersen

### Monday, December 20—St. Dominic of Silos 1073, *Hist.*; Sts Abraham, Isaac, & Jacob, *Hist.*

8:00 AM Communion Service  
Morning Prayer

### Tuesday, December 21—St. Peter Canisius 1597; St. Thomas 1st C., *Trad.*

7:40 AM Confessions till 7:55 AM  
8:00 AM Mass: Fr. Pedersen  
Morning Prayer to follow Mass  
4:30 PM Confession till 5:30 PM  
7:00 PM Communal Penance Service

### Wednesday, December 22— St. Frances Xavier Cabrini 1917, *Trad.*

7:40 AM Confessions till 7:55 AM  
8:00 AM Mass: Fr. Pedersen  
Morning Prayer to follow Mass  
4:30 Pm Confessions till 5:30 PM

### Thursday, December 23—St. Joh of Kanty 1473

7:40 AM Confessions till 7:55 AM  
8:00 AM Mass: Fr. Pedersen  
Morning Prayer to follow Mass  
Adoration following Mass till 8:30 PM  
9:00 AM Confessions Till 10:00 AM

### Friday, December 24— Vigil of Christmas; Sts. Adam & Eve, *Hist.*

7:40 AM Confessions till 7:55 AM  
8:00 AM Mass: Fr. Pedersen  
Morning Prayer to follow Mass  
2:00 PM Mass: Fr. Pedersen  
4:00 PM Mass: Fr. Pedersen  
5:30 PM Parking Lot Mass

### Saturday, December 25—The Nativity of Our Lord; Christmas

12:00 AM Midnight Christmas Mass Latin Mass  
8:00 AM Mass at Dawn  
10:00 AM Mass During the Day  
11:35 AM Latin Mass

### Sunday, December 26— The Holy Family of Jesus Mary & Joseph

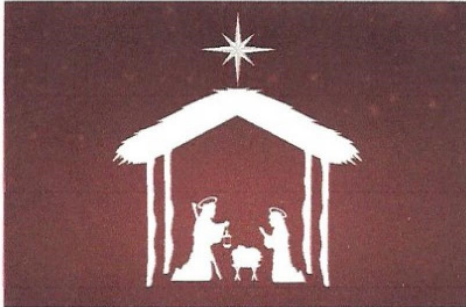
8:00 AM Mass: Fr. Pedersen  
10:00 AM Mass: Fr. Pedersen  
11:35 AM Latin Mass: Fr. Pedersen

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on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/shrobbinsdale/>

### Parish Prayer Line

To be placed on the prayer line call the Parish Office 763-537-4561. You can also send in your request via e-mail: [cshadmin@shrmn.org](mailto:cshadmin@shrmn.org)



**“The path of Jesus is magnanimity,  
generosity, the giving of oneself  
without measure.”**

**–Pope Francis**

## **Thinking about a year-end gift to THE CHURCH OF THE SACRED HEART - Here's what you need to know.**

### **1. We appreciate you!**

More than 30 percent of all charitable donations are made in the month of December. We're honored that you're considering a gift to The Church of the Sacred Heart.

### **2. Christmas office hours**

The Parish Office will be closed on December 23 & 24 and December 31.

### **3. Ways to Give**

Stock Contributions, Employer Matching Funds, IRA Accounts, Christmas Offertory Envelopes.

### **4. You Can Donate Online**

You can make a gift from the comfort of your own home! You can donate to The Church of the Sacred Heart online at [www.shrmn.org](http://www.shrmn.org) – Click the Donate Button.

### **5. If you itemize your deductions**

The Adjusted Gross Income limitation for charitable contributions is 100%. You can deduct your cash or cash-equivalent contributions from your entire income.

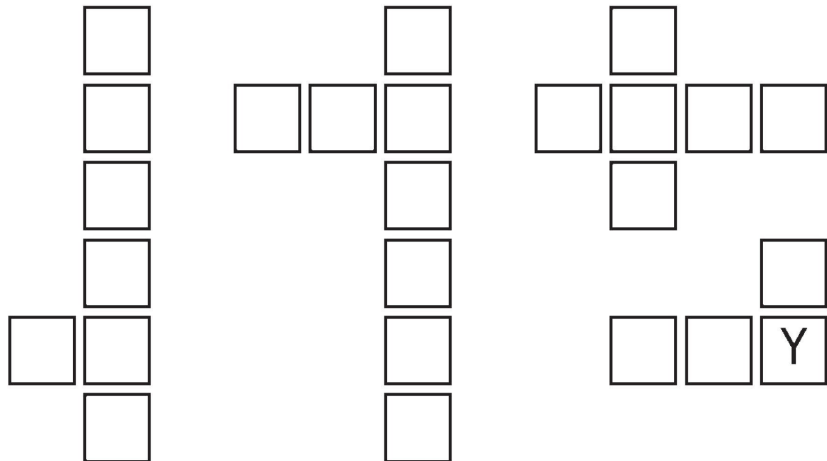
### **6. If you don't itemize your deductions**

You are able to claim a charitable deduction of **up to \$300** if filing on your own, or **up to \$600** if filing jointly with your spouse.

# KIDS CORNER

Fit the following words from today's gospel into the empty squares below.

The infant in my womb leaped for joy.



## READ THE GOSPEL AND COMPLETE A PUZZLE!

### SHARING THE GOSPEL

Mary couldn't wait to visit her much older cousin, Elizabeth, up in the hills of Judea.

Both of them were expecting babies. Each of them knew that the birth of her child was a special event that could only happen because they trusted God. Your own mother trusted that God would give you life in this world. Both Mary and Elizabeth watched their children grow up to do good things. You can grow up to do good things too, if you trust in God.

### PRAYER

Dear Jesus, help me to trust you and to remember that you are the reason we celebrate Christmas. Amen.

### MISSION FOR THE WEEK

You belong to a larger family than just the people in your home. See how many of your relatives you can name before you visit them at Christmas. When you do see them, wish them "Merry Christmas!"





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