



SACRED HEART ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

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Dear members of Sacred Heart Parish

During the season of Advent, we prepare our hearts to receive the Lord. We are called to prepare the way for the Lord and to make his paths straight. Therefore, this season is a good time to take stock of our past while opening our hearts, our minds, and our senses to where the Lord is calling us.

In regards to our past, it is with sadness that I must announce that Sacred Heart Parish's Christian Charities is no longer able to continue with our annual bazaar and used goods sales. For decades, this Parish ministry has raised money for local and international charities. It has been a marvelous fact that every dollar raised has been given away and did not stay in the Parish. This final year, we raised over \$20,000 for charity. On behalf of the Parish and everyone whom this ministry served, I would like to offer my deepest thanks to everyone who helped define our Parish as a community of service.

It is at this time of transition that I would ask that all of us take this Advent season to reflect anew on how our community can serve Christ in the midst of the poor. In addition to our reflections on service, this is also a time to reflect on how to deepen our lives of prayer. It is prayer that prevents our service from being mere activism. Our identity as Christians is beyond politics, nationality, language, or gender. When all the controversies and agendas of our present age fade into history, Christ will remind us that whatever we did to the least among us, we did it to him.

However, as a good preliminary to this renewal of focus, offer a kind word to a stranger in our Parish. Every good renewal should start with the basics. Sunday Mass is a great time to practice graciousness and generosity to the stranger. In a Parish as diverse as our own, we can unknowingly offend others as others can unknowingly offend us. Love is a difficult business, but it is worth it.

Pray for me as I pray for you.

God bless

Fr David Hogman

Pastor Sacred Heart Parish