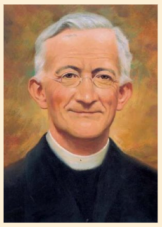
December 05, 2025 • *The Sacred Heart Window*
Bi-weekly News of Sacred Heart Seminary and School of Theology



Dehonian Spirituality

"St. Francis Xavier was not concerned for himself, but sought only the glory of God and the good of souls. He is a powerful protector for our missionaries. Let us not forget to ask his intercession for them."

– Leo John Dehon, SCJ, Spiritual Directory,
Part I, Chapter 6; and The Year of the Sacred Heart, December 3

Announcements

ECS Certificate Ceremony

The English and Culture Studies Program held its certificate ceremony on December 5, celebrating the achievements of six graduating students. Fr. Stephen Huffstetter, SCJ, offered thoughtful and inspiring remarks to mark the occasion.

- The following students received their certificates:
- Sr. Marince Sitohang, FCh
- Sr. Susana Susmiyarti, FCh
- Rev. Marvin de Jesus Alvarado, FMM

- Rev. Flávio Rosa Ataídes
- Mr. Alejandro Hernández Chávez

The Hanukkah Tradition

On December 3, Mr. Liran Gerassi presented to the Sacred Heart community the historical background of Hanukkah, its central themes, and the traditions and customs that developed in Israel and throughout the diaspora. He also touched on the Christian connections to the "Festival of Lights" and the ways the holiday appears in the New Testament, offering a perspective that was especially meaningful for our Catholic community.

Posadas Celebration

Sacred Heart hosted its Posadas celebration on December 3. The tradition of Las Posadas, as we know it today, dates back to the 16th century. In 1587, Pope Sixtus V authorized the Augustinian friars to hold Christmas novena Masses at their convent near Teotihuacan in the State of Mexico. These early Posadas were intended to help evangelize the Indigenous people by blending Christian religious practices with local cultural elements such as music and light.

After Mass, gatherings were organized with pinatas, Christmas carols, and lights. This is how a tradition was born that symbolizes Mary and Joseph's pilgrimage in search of a place to give birth to Jesus.

Over time, the novena Masses evolved into the Posadas we celebrate today: a meaningful blend of devotion, culture, and community. For nine nights, families and communities reenact the journey of Mary and Joseph, keeping alive a ritual that is both prayerful and joy filled.

Bagels with Lux

Members of the Jewish community made the long trip to join our seminarians, faculty, and staff for another meaningful morning of dialogue, learning, and friendship on December 02. Sacred Heart is deeply grateful for their presence and dedication.

A special thank you went to Roberta Clark (Rsclark Jcrc Milwaukee), Director of the Jewish Community Relations Council - Milwaukee and a valued board member of The Lux Center, who led a fascinating discussion on the Hanukkah menorah. Roberta explored the classic debate on whether to light all the candles at once or add one each night, showing how this ancient disagreement reflected the vibrant culture of debate within Judaism and the enduring importance of open dialogue, including interfaith dialogue.

Congratulations!

Sacred Heart has the pleasure of announcing a new book review by Dr. Julie Newberry (Douce), Assistant Professor of Scripture Studies:

- Newberry, Julie. Review of *Tailoring Scripture with Citation Formulae: Clues about Early Christian View of the Holy Books and the Holy God,* by Timothy A. Gabrielson. *Catholic Biblical Quarterly* 87, no. 4 (2025): 753–55.

Congratulations, Dr. Newberry!

Looking Forward

2025-2026 School Year

Dec 05 Last Day of Classes
Dec 09 Exam Days Start
Dec 12-Jan 11 Christmas Break
Dec 12 Christmas Evening Social
Jan 06-Jan 08 Preaching Conference
Jan 13 SHSST Residential Students Return
Jan 14-Jan 18 SHSST Residential Seminarian Retreat
Jan 20 Classes Begin
Jan 22 Christian Unity Evening Prayer
Feb 03 Bagels with Lux
Feb 18 Day of Recollection/Ash Wednesday (All School)
Mar 01-Mar 08 Spring Break
Mar 03 Bagels with Lux
Mar 11 Ministry of Lector
Mar 11 Board of Directors Meetings
Mar 22 Spring Lux Center Public Lecture
Mar 23 Lux Center Morning Lecture
Mar 25 Faculty & Staff Development
Mar 26-Mar 27 Faith & Culture Workshop
Mar 30-Apr 06 Easter Break
Apr 07 Bagels with Lux

Apr 08 Easter Lunch & Student Council Employee Appreciation
Apr 22 Day of Recollection (Seminarians Only; Faculty and Staff Off-Campus)
Apr 29 Employee Recognition & Diaconate Promises
May 05 Bagels with Lux
May 06 Administrator & Graduate Dinner
May 08 Last Day of Classes
May 08 Commencement
May 13 Faculty Council Dinner
May 18 May Session Begins
May 19 End of Year Celebration
May 20 Board of Directors Meetings
May 31-June 14 Biblical Pilgrimage
Jun 19 May Session Ends

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