

Sacred Heart Parish

120 Jefferson Street ~ Swedesburg, Pennsylvania, 19405
(610) 275-1750

LOVE YOUR ENEMIES do good to those who hate you

LUKE 6:27



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Rev. Peter J. DiMaria

Pastor

frdimaria@shswedesburg.org

Rev. Thomas A. Nasta

Pastor Emeritus

Rev. James A. Lyons

*Pastor Emeritus - Our Lady of Charity
Weekend Assistant*

FOCUS Missionaries:

Caitlyn Sechuk

csechuk@shswedesburg.org

Thomas Horlander

thorlander@shswedesburg.org

Holy Mass:

Saturday: Anticipated Mass 4:00 pm

Sunday: 8:00 am & 10:15 am

Monday through Friday at 8:00 am

Sacrament of Penance:

Sunday: 9:30 to 9:50 am

Wednesdays:

7:30 to 7:50 am & 6:30 to 7:00 pm

Saturday: 3:00 to 3:45 pm

Linda Moser

Coordinator of Religious Education

lmoser@shswedesburg.org

Leo Brady

Sacristan

Valerie DiFilippo

*Parish Bookkeeper/
Cemetery Manager*

Cemetery Manager

vdifilippo@shswedesburg.org

Joanne D'Alessandro

Parish Office Manager

jdalessandro@shswedesburg.org

Carl Gedeik

Director of

Liturgical Music

Joe & Jeff Houseal

Directors of Parish

& Cemetery Facilities

FEBRUARY 23, 2025
SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Return to the Lord

“Even now, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, and weeping and mourning. Rend your hearts and not your garments.” - Joel 2

The holy season of Lent begins on March 5th with the observance of Ash Wednesday. During this liturgical season we are called to intensify and strengthen our relationship with Our Lord.

Traditionally, lent has been a time for us to invite the grace of Christ to reign within us through prayer, fasting, penance, and alms giving. These scripturally based practices have proven effective means of conversion throughout the centuries. We are invited to engage in them so as to grow and change. Change for many of us is never easy but is essential if we are to inherit the Kingdom of God. In addition to these time tested scripturally based spiritual practices, many Catholics have also found the following Lenten religious practices fruitful:



Daily Mass: Why not consider coming to Mass each day during lent? If you can't come everyday, at least come once or twice during the week. What a marvelous way to start your day by participating in the Eucharistic Mystery.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament: Each Wednesday during Lent there will be Eucharistic Adoration from Noon until 7:30 p.m. The Blessed Sacrament will be exposed so that we may spend some time quietly adoring Our Eucharistic Savior.

Stations of the Cross and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament: On the Wednesdays of Lent, beginning on March 12, there will be Stations of the Cross and Benediction at 7:30 p.m. Take the opportunity to spiritually accompany our Lord on His way to Calvary. Tremendous peace and a more loving heart are the result of walking with Christ during this part of His Passion.

Magnificat: We have purchased copies of the Lenten Magnificat Companion which contains daily reflections for each day of Lent. Please make sure to take a copy home with you and use it as part of your daily prayer.

Best Lent Ever: The Dynamic Catholic Institute has a short daily Lenten video series which will be emailed to you. All of our parishioners who are signed up on Flock Note have received a link to this special program offered by Dynamic Catholic. All you need do is subscribe to this free email service.

The Shroud Experience: I am especially excited to welcome Russ Bureault to our parish on Tuesday, March 11th beginning at 7 p.m. Russ is a world renowned expert on the Shroud of Turin. Come learn more about the burial cloth believed to be the shroud which enclosed the lifeless body of Christ.

Let us use these Lenten days well, my friends, so that we may be the good, strong, loving, and virtuous men and women the Lord calls us to be.

God love you!
Father DiMaria

Spaghetti Dinner Success!

Delicious food and great conversation made for a wonderful spaghetti dinner last Sunday. Everyone had a great time. Such parish events are only possible when everyone pulls together to make it work.

Special thanks are owed to our kitchen crew: Frank, Liz, and Tommy Houseal, and Joe Maggio for preparing and cooking the meal. We are also very grateful to the parish's social committee and their crew who staffed the buffet as well as for setting up and breaking down the hall. Special thanks are extended to: Nadine Dennis, Beth Fabrizio, Karen Hinchey, Lee Ann Kinckner, Nicole Milburn, Andy, Melanie and Andrew Moletzsky, Andy and Pat Moletzsky, MaryCatherine Murphy, Joan McKernan, Lisa Pagnotti, Kelly Reid and Kitty Ritrovato. Thanks are also due to our maintenance team: Joe and Jeff Houseal for their efforts to make the dinner a success. Well done, everyone!

**THANK
YOU!**



SAVE THE DATE!

**WEDNESDAY,
MARCH 12**

**CARING FOR
FRIENDS**

It's time to get cooking! Mark your calendars for Wednesday, March 12th, at 6:00pm at the Parish Hall and join our Caring for Friends Ministry. Do God's work and at the same time make new friends from our parish.

Could an ancient Jewish linen cloth be the actual burial shroud of Jesus? Could the **Shroud of Turin** be a document of the crucifixion? Is that even possible? Or is it nothing more than a medieval hoax?

For hundreds of years this ancient linen cloth etched with the faint image of a crucified man has mystified millions. It continues to speak from centuries past challenging us to unlock its many secrets. Nearly every scientific regimen has been employed to unravel the mystery and yet it remains unsolved.

Shroud Encounter is a dramatic big-screen experience. Each clue is revealed and examined like a *CSI Investigation* leading deeper into its maze of mystery and intrigue.

Explore this profound enigma with **Russ Breault**, one of the world's leading experts captivating audiences coast to coast and seen in numerous documentaries including The History Channel, Discovery and CBS.

Don't miss **Shroud Encounter!**

A free will offering will be accepted to help defray the cost.

Shroud Encounter

An Unforgettable Big Screen Experience

Sacred Heart Catholic Church
120 Jefferson St.
Bridgeport

Tuesday March 11
7:00 PM Free Adm

Explore the Mystery of
The Shroud of Turin
With International Expert Russ Breault

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ShroudEncounter.com
Shroud of Turin Education Project, Inc.



MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, February 22

4:00pm Domenic Dugas

Requested by Barbara JanFrancisco

Sunday, February 23

8:00am Frank Opielski

3rd Anniversary Remembrance

Requested by Wife, Wanda & Family

10:15am Josephine & Donald Pierce

Requested by The Family

Monday, February 24

8:00am John Evan, Sr.

Birthday Remembrance

Requested by Eleanor & Junior

Tuesday, February 25

8:00am Rita & Paul Carney, Sr.

Requested by Mark & Mary Leszczynski

Wednesday, February 26

8:00am JoAnn Prinzivalli

Requested by Pat Murphy

Thursday, February 27

8:00am Daniel Paciello

Requested by Joe & Terry Capobianco & Family

Friday, February 28

8:00am Marie & Lawrence Puco

Requested by Lou Puco

Saturday, March 1

NB: No 8:00am Mass on Saturdays

4:00pm Barbara Bores

Birthday Remembrance

Requested by The Bores & Stalker Families

Sunday, March 2

8:00am Michael Dudas

Requested by Patrick Dudas

10:15am Eleanor & John Toth

*Requested by Daughters, LeeAnn & Shelly
and Their Families*



Let Us Serve The Lord With Gladness!

The following Ministers are scheduled for our Parish Masses.

Saturday evening, March 1:

4:00pm

Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion:

Pat Moletzsky

Lector: Walt Fromm, Jr.

Sunday morning, March 2:

8:00am

Lector: Eileen Bralski

10:15am

Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion:

Valencia Zaremba

Lector: Daniel Fahy, Jr.



Companions in Prayer and Ministry will meet on Sunday, March 2nd after the 10:15 Mass in the Rectory Meeting Room.

Please consider joining our Companions Group on the first Sunday of the month after the 10:15 Mass.

Sister Francis Helen

Ash Wednesday



Lent begins on March 5th with the observance of Ash Wednesday. Holy Mass and the distribution of ashes will occur at 8:00 a.m.

Liturgy of the Word and distribution of ashes will take place at 4:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.



In Loving Memory



We are grateful for a donation
received in Memory of

Helen Bednar

On behalf of:
Virginia Papale



*Please Pray For All Who Protect Our
Country, especially...*

John F. K. Benedict (Major, USAF ANG), son of Christine & Vince Benedict; **Anthony C. Brandt** (CW3 Warrant Officer, U.S. Army Reserves), son of Eileen Brandt; **Zachary T. Brandt** (Sergeant U.S. Army), grandson of Eileen Brandt; **Matthew J. Capaldo** (Commander, U.S. Navy) son of John & Connie Capaldo; **Michael DeStefano, Jr.** (Sergeant U.S. Army) grandson of Jack & Sue DeStefano; **Michael Gutkowski** (Lieutenant Commander, U.S. Navy), grandson of Pat Gutkowski; **Samuel Hoey** (LCpl, U.S.M.C), grandson of Leona Cottone; **Noel Irizarry** (Sergeant, U.S. Army), son of Patricia Epright; **Shane Jones** (Sergeant U.S. Marines), grandson of Fran Toth; **Matthew McNulty** (Chief Warrant Officer 4 U.S.M.C.), son of Irene McNulty; **Rick McVoy** (Lieutenant Commander, U.S. Navy) son of Rich McVoy; **Greg Philips** (Lieutenant Commander, U.S. Navy); **Jessica Prostack** (CW2 Warrant Officer, U.S. Army), daughter of Richard Prostack; **Jack Razin** (1st Lieutenant, U.S. Air Force), son of Rich & Julie Razin; **Luke Razin** (Captain, U.S. Air Force), son of Rich & Julie Razin; **Jeffrey Seamans** (Captain, U.S. Army), son-in-law of Dolores Burton; **Stephanie Zugay** (National Guard), granddaughter of Greg & Grace Zugay.

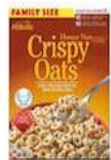


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| Carol Katkowski | Marge Leszczynski |
| Elaine Fertal | Dolores Burton |
| Barbara Pruskowski | Fran & Rob Worrall |
| George Minnis | Marion Raup |
| Al Cowling | Joseph Saboe |
| Mary (Puzio) Stephenson | Irene Elliott |
| Mary Boyle | Stanley Leszczynski |
| Fran Toth | Ayden Boone |
| Joan Birely | Butch Rodenbaugh |
| Martha Smoczylo | Nicholas Janicki |
| Kelly Benedict | Michael Myers |
| Patricia Gaffney | Melissa (Myers) Sillah |
| Angela Desmond | George Estock |
| Fred Zugay | Barbara A. Burkert |
| Mike Piskai | John Smoczylo |
| Eileen Brandt | Laurie Ronan |






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Monday Night Rosary will be recited in church each Monday at 7 p.m.

Pro Life Holy Hour at 12:00 noon each Wednesday in church.




THE LORD'S REAL PRESENCE

We are fortunate enough to worship in a Church in which the **Body of Christ** is **reserved**. It is right to acknowledge the **Lord's Real Presence** with a brief act of worship on **entering or leaving** the Church and **every time** passing by the Sanctuary.

Normally, a **genuflection** in the direction of the place of Reservation is enough. One who is physically unable to genuflect may substitute a **profound bow** at the waist.

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MARCH 30, 2025
3:00 PM
Cathedral Basilica of SS. Peter & Paul
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Women of Hope (formerly known as Dominican Women)
Retreat: **March 14-16, 2025**

Come to Malvern Retreat House to renew and strengthen your relationship with our Lord. Take time to deepen your faith, in the company of other women who seek more from their faith lives. The theme is **"The Eucharist- Food for the Journey."**

Speakers include: Jeannine Peters, Sr. Shiela Galligan, IHM, and Nicky Verna. Visit and learn about the first Archdiocesan Shrine dedicated to Blessed, soon to be Saint, Carlo Acutis, the first millennial saint of the youth. Mary Bea Damico will speak about him in the shrine and a first class relic can be venerated.

Please consider the gift of this weekend retreat for yourself and other women in your lives. The cost is \$275 and a \$75 deposit minimum is requested to secure your spot. For additional information, call Sunny Dougherty @ 484-744-3920. To register, call 610-644-0400 or visit: www.malvernretreat.com.



Karaoke Party Wing Night

Swedesburg Fire Co.,
Jefferson St, Swedesburg, PA
Saturday, March 8, 2025

Postponed from February 8, 2025

Wings - 6pm - til....
Karaoke - 7pm - 11pm
Karaoke by Joe DiBattista
No Cover Charge
Additional Information - 610-272-9853



FEBRUARY 23, 2025

SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Reflection by Rev. Leonard N. Peterson

Expansion, like many words and ideas, can have multiple and quite disparate meanings. Often this is the source of good humor. When we think of the expansion long ago by then President Thomas Jefferson in making the Louisiana Purchase, he doubled the size of our country with the stroke of a pen. So wide was the territory that Jefferson sent Lewis and Clark to explore and map it.

Contrast that noble historic event with the notion of an expanded waistline that afflicts most of us after 40, and we have a happening in our personal history that demands will power, or in some cases, injections of expensive drugs to combat.

But today I wish to reflect on an expansion Our good Lord made of the concept of charity. To the question: "Who is to be the object of love of neighbor?" The answer comes in the Gospel for this last Sunday of February. Who did Jesus say we have to love? In a word, everybody!

Wow! Of course, we believers have heard it before. But it can be just as disconcerting to our per-conceived plan of behavior and just as annoying as it was for Christ's first hearers. With Lent being just 10 days away, I would think this is a priority task for most of us in any effort at penance and self-reform.

You may think that the need for such is foreign to the life of a priest. Let me assure you that it is not. Responding positively to Our Lord's expanded idea of love expressed in Luke chapter 6 is just as hard for us as for anyone. Personally speaking, many years ago a priest much younger than I spoke negatively about me to our authorities with no justification. It shocked me at the time because I thought I had bent over backwards to be kind to this man. To this day he has no idea of the hurt and disappointment he caused. I must see him at most diocesan events and never let on. I must refrain from even a hint whenever I'm in the company of those who know him. The devil on my shoulder has urged me to reveal, but this gospel passage stops me. Like David with Saul, I must forgive and respect the teachings of my king and yours, Jesus our Lord.

Somehow over the years that have followed, regarding this incident and others (for priests can be cruel to one another via their tongues) I have come to realize that Our Lord is so right. Absorbing pain when the gospel truth demands it is one sure way of making small amends for the pain of our Savior on His cross. And it helps us all to think big for a change. I found this line from an anonymous source: "Forgiveness is a funny thing. It warms the heart and cools the sting."

God love you and give you His peace.



Keith J. Murphy
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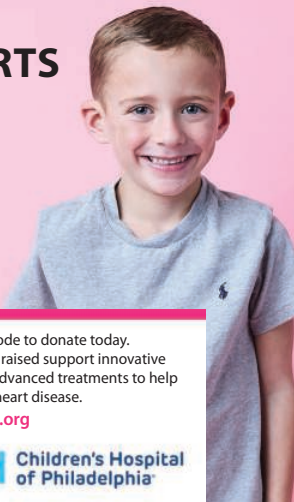
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LITTLE HEARTS**

Saturday & Sunday
March 8-9, 2025

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