

Sacred Heart Parish

120 Jefferson Street ~ Swedesburg, Pennsylvania, 19405

(610) 275-1750



Go, and from now on do not sin any more.

JOHN 8:11

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*

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*

APRIL 6, 2025
FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT



Welcome Archbishop Nelson Pérez!

We extend a very warm welcome to Archbishop Nelson Pérez to Sacred Heart Parish. Archbishop Pérez will administer the Sacrament of Confirmation at the 10:15 am Mass today. We are honored to welcome Archbishop Pérez to our parish!



Congratulations to the sons and daughters of the following families who received the Sacrament of Confirmation at the 10:15 am Mass this Sunday, April 6th.

The Biddle Family

The Diniz-Kilian Family

The Falcone Family

The Lachowicz Family

The Moletzky Family

The Savala Jimenez Family

The Silverio-Asmal Family

The Watts Family

May the Holy Spirit continue to guide you in your journey of faith!



Confessions:

Saturday, April 12 3:00 pm - 3:45 pm
 Tuesday, April 15 1:00 pm - 1:30 pm
 Wednesday, April 16 6:30 pm - 7:30pm
 Good Friday, April 18 10:00 am - 11:00 am
 No confessions on Holy Saturday

Holy Thursday

Mass of the Lord's Supper 7:00 pm
 The Church will remain open until 11:00 pm for visits to the repository

Good Friday

Liturgy of the Lord's Passion 2:00 pm
 The Church opens at 8:00 am for visits to the repository

EASTER DECORATING



Volunteers are needed to help decorate the Church for Easter. We will assemble in the Church at 7:00 pm on Good Friday, April 18th to decorate. Many hands make light work!



Lenten Eucharistic Adoration & Stations of the Cross



Each Wednesday of Lent there will be Eucharistic Adoration starting at Noon and ending with Stations of the Cross and Benediction at 7:30 p.m. each week. There will be no Stations on Wednesday of Holy Week.



Holy Saturday
Easter Vigil 7:00 pm

Easter Sunday
8:00 am & 10:15 am



Join our Caring for Friends Ministry at the Parish Hall on **Wednesday, April 9th** at 6:00pm. We are more than

just soup! All you need to do is make a pot of your favorite homemade soup, a hearty batch of chili, some mac & cheese, hot dogs and beans, beef stew. Prepare your specialty at home and we will provide containers and labels. We ask that you prepare enough for 10 or more servings. *All are welcome to join us!*

Any questions contact: Lisa at 610-639-7704.



Holy Week Mission Join Us on Tuesday, April 15th at Sacred Heart!

Mission Youth Philly is coming to **Sacred Heart Parish on Tuesday, April 15th**, to bring Christ's love to our neighbors! We'll be **visiting homebound parishioners, going door-to-door in the neighborhood, and offering prayer to those we encounter.**

Join us for Adoration at 7pm in the church – all are welcome!

Want to get involved? Parishioners are invited to **join the mission** for the day or support our work through prayer and generosity.

Other Holy Week Mission Opportunities:

- **Good Friday Family Mission** in Center City
- **Living Stations of the Cross** beginning at 12:30pm at St. Pat's Cathedral in Rittenhouse Square
- **Single-Day and 5-Day Missions** – especially for high schoolers!

Sign up to join us! Visit MissionYouth-Philly.com/holy-week-2025 for all the details!

Contact: Christina Ball at: missionyouthphilly@gmail.com

Scan to Register:



An Invitation from Archbishop Pérez

Trust and Hope

Most of us, especially those of a certain age, Have witnessed the alarming decline over the years in Mass attendance and participation in the life of the Church. The reasons are many, but the fact is that only about 17% of Catholics attend Mass. The response to that reality by the Church in the U.S. has been to do its best to “manage the decline.” There have been essentially three approaches 1. Close parishes gradually through a planning process, 2. Close many parishes all at once (rip the band aid off). Or 3. Allocate multiple parishes to a single priest and see what happens.

Archbishop Pérez is leading an effort in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia to take a different approach - a “Fourth Way.” Thus, we as an Archdiocese are embarking on a long-term approach to reverse the decline and actually *grow* the church. One of the themes of this endeavor is to recognize that we are in “Apostolic Times.” That is, we are a missionary church once again.

A representative from the Archdiocese will hold an information session for parishioners of Sacred Heart Parish. The session will be held on **Tuesday, April 29th at 7:00PM** in the church. Please come and bring your questions with you. Your input is essential to the success of this important initiative.



**BLESSING OF
EASTER FOOD
HOLY SATURDAY
April 19 @ 1:30 PM**

SACRED HEART CHURCH

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, April 5

4:00pm Eleanor Bores

Birthday Remembrance

Requested by The Bores & Stalker Families

Sunday, April 6

8:00am Pelagia Babicz

Requested by Son & Daughter

10:15am Domenico Zaccardi

Birthday Remembrance, April 4

*Requested by Wife, Andriana & Children
and Grandchildren*

Monday, April 7

8:00am John Kurcik, Sr.

Requested by His Family

Tuesday, April 8

8:00am Stephenie Ricci

Requested by Ken Klicka

Wednesday, April 9

8:00am Felix Perretta

Requested by Carl & Kass Perretta

Thursday, April 10

8:00am Nicholas "Chief" Rotondo, Sr.

Requested by Pat Murphy

Friday, April 11

8:00am Rita & Joe Russo

Requested by Lou Puco

Saturday, April 12

NB: No 8:00am Mass on Saturdays

4:00pm Domenic Giovanni Dugas

Requested by Barbara JanFrancisco

Sunday, April 13

8:00am Living & Deceased Members of the
Bakula & Moser Families

Requested by Connie Sharp

10:15am Desiree Halas & Michele Halas Paul

Requested by Dad



Let Us Serve The Lord With Gladness!

The following Ministers are scheduled for our Parish Masses.

Saturday evening, April 12:

4:00pm

Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion:

Valencia Zaremba

Lector: John Simmons & Connie Capaldo

Sunday morning, April 13:

8:00am

Lector: Robert Stefanik & Eileen Bralski

10:15am

Lector: Sal DiNenna & Danielle Cantando



Weekly Report

March 29 - 30, 2025

\$6,986.00

Thank you for your support of Our Parish!

*thank
you
all*

The Officers and Members of the Knights of Columbus Holy Family Council #3327 would like to thank all those who participated in the PA State Special Olympics event. Through your generosity at Sacred Heart along with the other two area parishes a total of \$855.00 was collected. The Officers and Members of the Knights of Columbus not only matched but upped their donation to donate a total of \$2,000 to Special Olympics!





FRIDAY NIGHT BINGO

Friday, April 11th
Doors open 6:00 PM ~ Games at 7:00 PM
Parish Hall
Chance to win up to \$500.00
Sponsored by: Knights of Columbus #3327




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.



DINNER THEATER BUS TRIP LANCASTER

APRIL 15th

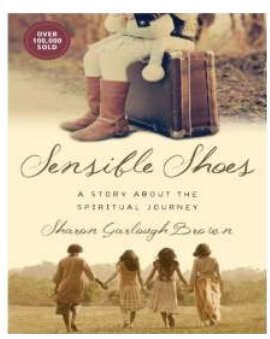
The bus will arrive @ 9:15 am & leave promptly @ 9:30 am from Sacred Heart Church parking lot.
Questions call June 610-247-4398




The "Book Club" will be meeting on Thursday, April 17th. Please note change in date and will be held in the Rectory Meeting Room beginning at 1:30pm.

The book for April is Sensible Shoes: A Story about the Spiritual Journey by Sharon Garlough Brown.

We welcome new members any time. Please consider joining us for a great discussion.



- | | |
|-------------------------|------------------------|
| Patty Houseal | Eileen Brandt |
| Joseph Puzio | Denise Kavanagh |
| Piper Kaplan | Tom Kavanagh |
| Michael J. Estock | Michael Martin |
| Francis Rodenbaugh III | Ronald Halas |
| Karen Braithwaite | Marge Leszczynski |
| Carol Katkowski | Dolores Burton |
| Elaine Fertal | Fran & Rob Worrall |
| Barbara Pruskowski | Marion Raup |
| George Minnis | Joseph Saboe |
| Al Cowling | Irene Elliott |
| Mary (Puzio) Stephenson | Stanley Leszczynski |
| Mary Boyle | Ayden Boone |
| Fran Toth | Butch Rodenbaugh |
| Joan Birely | Nicholas Janicki |
| Martha Smoczylo | Michael Myers |
| Kelly Benedict | Melissa (Myers) Sillah |
| Patricia Gaffney | George Estock |
| Angela Desmond | Barbara A. Burkert |
| Mike Piskai | John Smoczylo |
| | Laurie Ronan |



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.

Thank you so much

A special thank you to the Knights of Columbus Holy Family Council #3327 for their generous donation of \$5,000.00. We appreciate their continued support and generosity to our parish.



Giving Hope TO ALL

Catholic Charities Appeal

By donating just \$1 a day, you will support virtually every aspect of Catholic

life for enrichment and improvement.

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www.catholiccharitiesappeal.org



The 40 Days for Life Campaign is a nationwide life-saving event which runs this fall from

3/5/2025 through 4/13/2025. This effort consists of prayer, fasting

and peaceful prayer vigils outside local abortion centers in order to end abortion. Sacred Heart Parish has been scheduled to pray outside of the Norristown Planned Parenthood Center on **Thursday, April 10, 2025.** Would you please join us and offer to pray for one hour anytime from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM? Through **40 Days for Life**, it is prayerfully possible to change hearts! A sign-up sheet is located on the table in the back of the church.

If you have any questions, please contact Linda Korpel (610-291-1138). You will have another person praying outside with you at all times.

Thank you for helping to build a culture of life!

Sign-up for daily devotionals

at www.40daysforlife.com/norristown

Save the Dates Lenten Dinners

Lent

WHEN

MARCH 7, 14, 21, 28 AND APRIL 4, 11, 18

WHERE

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TIME

5PM TO 8PM

COME ENJOY GOOD FOOD WITH GOOD FREINDS

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BREAKFAST WITH THE EASTER BUNNY

**Sunday April 13, 2025
8AM - 12PM**

**At the Swedesburg Vol. Fire Co. Social Hall
310 Jefferson St., Bridgeport PA 19405**



Part-Time HELP WANTED

St. John the Baptist parish in Bridgeport (in the old OLMC property) is looking to hire a part-time staff member to clean portions of the rectory and other parts of the property as needed during daytime hours on weekdays. This person would also fill in occasionally when our main weekend person is unavailable. Average 5-10 hours a week, pay starting at \$18/hour. Please contact Fr. Keyes at pastor@sjbbridgeport.org or 610-455-4458.

APRIL 6, 2025

Reflection by Rev. Leonard N. Peterson



Fifteen years ago, cursive writing teaching stopped in the United States when the Common Core State Standards were adopted. This led many schools to phase cursive writing out of their curricula. With the rise of digital technology, it made sense for many schools to prioritize keyboarding skills over cursive writing. According to former Harvard president Drew Faust, this matters because among many sad effects is that our youngsters won't be able to read the birthday card from their grandmothers. They'll need their mothers to translate it for them. The good news is that some schools have returned to such instruction.

This whole matter came to mind as I pondered a significant detail in the well-known story of "The Authorities and the Woman caught in Adultery" as found in John chapter 8. It is this: "Jesus bent down and wrote with His finger on the ground." We might ask: "What did He write?" Or "What language did He use? Was it cursive Aramaic or a printed version?" That would be a fool's errand because printing had not yet been invented.

The point here is not to bring a contemporary educational question into play over the words of the gospel story. What Jesus wrote is unknown and scholars tell us is that it was probably symbolic. St. Bede puts in his "two cents" this way: "Christ, who twice bends down to write on the ground, teaches us to bend low in humility, so that we can examine ourselves both before and after addressing the faults of our neighbor. If His example becomes our practice, we will avoid the extremes of being unjust and unmerciful toward others."

I find St. Bede's analysis personally helpful, especially during Lent. He asks us all to preclude any smugness on our part. To think that we are morally superior to the scribes and Pharisees in this famous story. We are not allowed to be judgmental of the poor shivering creature those men had dragged from the crowd to place her in front of Jesus. Honestly, how many times have we set ourselves up as judge and jury of somebody else? Sneered at their weakness from our chosen perch above it all?

It's a good thing we have humble saints in our Catholic tradition, beginning of course with Mary our Mother. Not only are they all heroes and models for imitation, but they are also practical teachers. We shouldn't think of saints as some stylized figure captured in stained glass. Except for Our Lady, saints are usually sinners, "revised and edited."

God be with you in these dwindling days of Lent.



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