

Sacred Heart Parish

120 Jefferson Street ~ Swedesburg, Pennsylvania, 19405

(610) 275-1750



“Do not be
Afraid.”

MATTHEW 1:20

©JPPC

Rev. Peter J. DiMaria

Pastor

frdimaria@shswedesburg.org

Rev. Thomas A. Nasta

Pastor Emeritus

Rev. James J. Shea, Sch. P.

Weekend Ministry

Sr. MaryAnne Bolger, IHM

Parish Services Director

srmaryanne@shswedesburg.org

Linda Moser

Coordinator of Religious Education

lmoser@shswedesburg.org

Leo Brady

Sacristan

Sacramental Schedule

Holy Mass:

Saturday: Anticipated Mass 4:00 pm

Sunday: 8:00 am & 10:15 am

Monday through Saturday at 8:00 am

Sacrament of Penance:

Each Saturday: 3:00 to 3:45 pm

Wednesdays:

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

or by request

Valerie DiFilippo

*Parish Bookkeeper/
Cemetery Manager*

vdifilippo@shswedesburg.org

Alexandra LaMastra

Director of

Liturgical Music

alamastra@shswedesburg.org

Joanne D'Alessandro

Parish Office Manager

jdalessandro@shswedesburg.org

Joe & Jeff Houseal

*Directors of Parish
& Cemetery Facilities*



BEFORE THE PALING OF THE STARS

Before the paling of the stars,
Before the winter morn,
Before the earliest cockcrow,
Jesus Christ was born:
Born in a stable,
Cradled in a manger,
In the world His hands had made
Born a stranger.

Priest and king lay fast asleep
In Jerusalem,
Young and old lay fast asleep
In crowded Bethlehem;
Saint and Angel, ox and ass,
Kept a watch together
Before the Christmas daybreak
In the winter weather.

Jesus on His mother's breast
In the stable cold,
Spotless Lamb of God was He,
Shepherd of the fold:
Let us kneel with Mary maid,
With Joseph bent and hoary,
With Saint and Angel, ox and ass,
To hail the King of Glory.

Christina G. Rossetti



Christmas Confession and Mass Schedule

Sacrament of Confession Schedule:



Monday, December 19th
6:30pm to 7:30pm
Tuesday, December 20th
1:00pm to 2:00pm
Wednesday, December 21st
6:30pm to 7:30pm
Saturday, December 24th
11:00am to Noon

Christmas Mass Schedule:



Christmas Eve Masses, December 24th

4:00pm & 10:00pm

Christmas Day Masses, December 25th

8:00am & 10:15am

The Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God:



(New Year's), December 31st

4:00pm

New Year's Day, January 1, 2023

8:00am & 10:15am

ETERNAL REST,
GRANT UNTO THEM O LORD!

*In your kindness,
please pray for the happy repose of the soul of*

Helen Mardi

Who was called from this life on December 7, 2022

*“May Her soul and all the souls of the
faithful departed Rest in peace.”*



***Eucharistic Wednesdays of
Advent***

The Bishops of the United States have called for a **“Eucharistic Revival”** in our country. Part of their initiative involves added opportunities for Eucharistic Adoration. Each Wednesday of

Advent the Blessed Sacrament will be exposed for the adoration of the faithful. Exposition will begin at the conclusion of the 8 am Mass and continue until 7 p.m. A sign up sheet will be in the back of the church so as to assure that the Blessed Sacrament is not unattended.



Prayer for the Eucharistic Revival

My God, I believe, I adore, I hope and I love You!
I beg pardon for those who do not believe, nor
adore, nor hope, nor love You. (Three times)

Most Holy Trinity, Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
I adore You profoundly. I offer You the most
precious Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus
Christ, present in all the tabernacles of the world in
reparation for the outrages, sacrileges and
indifference by which He is offended.

And, through the infinite merits of the Sacred
Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary,
I beg of You the conversion of sinners.
Our Lady of Fatima, pray for us.

phillyeucharisticrevival.org

HOLIDAY KOLACHKY SALE!

Kolachky will be on sale this weekend,
before and after each liturgy in the
entrance of the rectory garages.

**Nut, Poppy seed, Apricot and
Lekvar rolls**
All \$15.00



Oplatki

*(Unleavened wafers) is
available at the rectory.*

*A donation will be
gratefully accepted.*



Pew Missals

The 2023 edition of the Pew Missal has been placed in church. Several of the 2022 editions went missing over the course of the last year. These missals are meant for the exclusive use of the congregation while at Mass and are not meant to be taken home for private devotion. Please do not remove any missals from the church.



**Companions in Prayer and
Ministry** - our next meeting will
be on **Sunday, February 5th** in the
Convent Meeting Room after the

10:15 Mass. (In other words - there will be no meeting on New Year's Day)

For those who wonder what this is, please consider joining us as we grow in our spiritual lives and learn more about the charism of our IHM Sisters.



MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, December 17

4:00pm Jerry Kelly, Sr.

Requested by Wife, Terry & Family

Sunday, December 18

8:00am For the People of Our Parish

10:15am Stan & Mary Wlazelek

Requested by Frank & Wanda Opielski

Monday, December 19

8:00am Frank Opielski

Requested by Lauren Wisniewski

Tuesday, December 20

8:00am Joseph Fesolovich

(Anniversary Remembrance)

*Requested by Daughter, Mary &
Son-in-law, John*

Wednesday, December 21

8:00am Aimee Fromm

Requested by Mom & Dad

Thursday, December 22

8:00am William Simmons

Requested by The Shannon Family

Friday, December 23

8:00am Joseph DiMaria

Saturday, December 24

4:00pm Bruce J. Martin, III

(Birthday Remembrance)

Requested by Lee Ann, Hilary, Jeff & Kayla

10:00pm Joseph Pierce

(Birthday Remembrance)

Requested by Sisters, Lorraine & Sharon

Sunday, December 25

8:00am Robert Murphy

Requested by MaryCatherine

10:15am Joseph & Lottie Zaremba

Requested by Daughter, Valencia



LITURGICAL MINISTRIES



Let Us Serve The Lord With Gladness!

The following Ministers are scheduled for our Parish Masses.

Saturday evening, December 24:

4:00pm

Lector: Connie Capaldo

10:00pm

Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion:

Margie Pruskowski

Lector: John Keidel

Sunday morning, December 25:

8:00am

Lector: Walt Fromm, Jr.

10:15am

Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion:

Valenciz Zaremba

Lector: Eileen Bralski

Celebrant's Mass Schedule

Saturday evening, December 24:

4:00pm - Father LaRosa

10:00pm - Father DiMaria

Sunday morning, December 25:

8:00am - Father Shea

10:15am— Father DiMaria



Weekly Report

Due to an early bulletin deadline, financial information will appear in next weekend's bulletin.

Thank you for your support of Our Parish!



LOVE



This week the bread and wine for the celebration of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass is in memory of

Bill & Dolores Simmons

at the Request of The Shannon Family



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

Matthew D. Baxter (Staff Sergeant, U.S. Air Force), grandson of Peg Palmer; **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 & Nesbur Brandt; **Zachary T. Brandt** (Sergeant U.S. Army), grandson of Eileen & Nesbur Brandt; **LCDR Matthew J. Capaldo** (U.S. Navy) son of John & Connie Capaldo; **Michael DeStefano, Jr.** (Sergeant U.S. Army) grandson of Jack & Sue DeStefano; **Darius A. Garey** (E3, U.S. Navy), great-grandson of Peg Palmer; **Michael Gutkowski** (Lieutenant, U.S. Navy), grandson of Pat Gutkowski; **Noel Irizarry** (Lance Corporal, U.S. Marine Corps), son of Patricia Epright; **Shane Jones** (Sergeant US Marines), grandson of Fran Toth; **Gregory Kantz** (Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Air Force), grandson of Rose Kantz; **Stephen Kantz** (Commander, U.S. Navy), grandson of Rose Kantz; **Matthew McNulty** (Chief Warrant Officer 3 U.S.M.C.), son of Irene McNulty; **Michael McSweeney** (Commander, U.S. Navy); **Rick McVoy** (Lieutenant Commander, U.S. Navy) son of Rich McVoy; **Jonathan D. Palmer** (Sergeant, U.S. National Guard), grandson of Peg Palmer; **Greg Philips** (Lieutenant Commander, U.S. Navy); **Jessica Prostack** (CW2 Warrant Officer, U.S. Army), daughter of Richard Prostack; **Jeffrey Seamans** (Captain, U.S. Army), son-in-law of Dolores Burton.

This week the Sanctuary Lamp in the Church burns in Memory of



Aimee Fromm

At the request of Mom & Dad

Sacred Heart Pro Life Holy Hour



All are welcome to join us at **12:00 pm noon each Wednesday** to gather in prayer to ask for God's help on issues affecting our nation and families.



Church Christmas Decorating

Volunteers are needed to help decorate the Church for Christmas. We will meet at 7 p.m. on Thursday, December 22. Many hands make light work! Please join us.

In Your Charity, Please Pray For Our Sick



Marge Leszczynski; Michael Dulaney (Brother-in-law of John Puzio, Jr.); Dolores Burton; Fran & Rob Worrall (Sister & Brother-in-law of Joe Murphy); Rose Coscia; Francis Coscia; Jeff Simmons (Son of John & Fran Simmons); Joan Coscia (Sister-in-law of Francis & Rose Coscia); Marion Raup; Joseph Saboe; Margie Martin (Friend of Lee Ann Kinckner); Irene Elliott; Stanley Leszczynski; Ayden Boone (Great Great-Grandson of Armando Delmoro); Butch Rodenbaugh; Nicholas Janicki; Catherine Bankowski; Michael Myers and Melissa (Myers) Sillah (Grandchildren of Dora & Armando Delmoro); George Estock; Helen Bednar; Barbara A. Burkert (Daughter of Dora & Armando Delmoro); Cody Taylor (Nephew of Michael & Eileen Bralski); Melonie Mitchell; John Smoczylo; Teddy Swede (Brother of Gloria Swede); Laurie Ronan (Niece of Gloria Swede); Edward Keszcyk.

The Legend of the Candy Cane



Look at the Candy Cane What do you see? Stripes that are red like the blood shed for me. White is for my Savior Who's sinless and pure! "J" is for Jesus My Lord, that's for sure! Turn it around and a staff you will see - Jesus, my shepherd is coming for Me!



THIS WEEK ON **FORMED**

Week of December 18, 2022



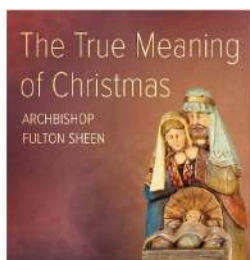
Christmas in Rome: A Celebration of the Nativity

Nowhere celebrates the birth of the Savior like Rome. This Christmas, marvel at the Holy City's festive celebration of the coming of the child Jesus.



The Story of the Nativity: The Truth of Christmas

Enjoy this fast-paced, thought-provoking look at the true story of the Nativity as we enter into the joyful season of Advent. Christmas is so much more than a humdrum story we've heard since childhood. Join top scholars, speakers, and authors as they explain the gravity of Christ's miraculous birth.



The True Meaning of Christmas by Fulton Sheen

This presentation combines recordings of Fulton Sheen's timeless reflections on the meaning of Christmas, mixed with Gregorian chant and seasonal music. It is sure to become a family favorite!

Our parish has a FORMED subscription.
Visit signup.formed.org and select our parish name.

DECEMBER 18, 2022 - FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Reflection by Rev. Leonard N. Peterson

The fourth candle on the Advent wreath is often not lit for long. In fact, it habitually sets itself for display on next year's wreath. But this year it burns a little longer because the calendar lets us have a full week before Christmas. To me, that's a gift of time to ponder God's wondrous love for us poor sinners. He knows we are always in need of saving. Time is no obstacle to His will for us, and His love, 21 centuries after the fact of the First Christmas.

His gift to our human race then is hopefully our prime motive for the gifts we give others at this time of the year. But do we ever really give much thought to our gift to God? Of course, God does not need a gift, strictly speaking. In fact, Common Mass Preface IV puts it quite bluntly: *"Although You have no need of our praise, yet our thanksgiving is itself Your gift, since our praises add nothing to Your greatness but profit us for salvation, through Christ our Lord."*

Instead of our praise, may I suggest a revitalization of our obedience to God? I'm inspired to do so by the actions of our great St. Joseph, as recounted today from St. Matthew's gospel. We know Joseph is a man of action rather than of words, because we don't have one word from him in the Bible. When we watch him, and consider his situation, we see the stuff from which saints are made.

First of all, St. Joseph was not an old man, as many paintings and statues depict him. He was the Blessed Mother's contemporary, and she was young, perhaps even in her late teens.

So here is young Joseph, forced to deal with the fact that Mary, the love of his life, was "found with child through the Holy Spirit." Can you blame him for being heartbroken at first? So he prepares for divorce with a loving motive to do so quietly. Remember, in that bygone time, engagement was practically equivalent to marriage. So when an angel appeared in a dream and told him the complete story of the Holy Spirit's involvement, does Joseph balk? Get out of bed and rage against God? Act petulantly? No! As Matthew tells us in the last line of today's Gospel: *"He did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took his wife into his home."* Raw obedience with no frills or conditions attached. What a man! What a saint!

As I contemplate this, I feel a personal examination of conscience coming on. All about my own obedience to God's will. When I check back on my own past reactions to unexpected developments in my life, what was I like? After all, I'm a priest! I should know how to react. Then I turn to St. Joseph. Not as holder of glorious titles like "Foster father of Jesus." Or "Patron of the Universal Church." But just as a fellow man. Obedient to the point of being a leading role in the Christmas story we know. A candle in the darkness of a selfish, disobedient world. What more to say, but "St. Joseph, pray for us."

God love you and give you His peace.

