

# *Sacred Heart Parish*

120 Jefferson Street ~ Swedesburg, Pennsylvania, 19405

(610) 275-1750



**Rev. Peter J. DiMaria**

*Pastor*

[frdimaria@shswedesburg.org](mailto:frdimaria@shswedesburg.org)

**Rev. Thomas A. Nasta**

*Pastor Emeritus*

**Rev. James J. Shea, Sch. P.**

*Weekend Ministry*

**Sr. MaryAnne Bolger, IHM**

*Parish Services Director*

[srmayanne@shswedesburg.org](mailto:srmaryanne@shswedesburg.org)

**Linda Moser**

*Coordinator of Religious Education*

[lmoser@shswedesburg.org](mailto: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](mailto:vdifilippo@shswedesburg.org)

**Alexandra LaMastra, DMA**

*Director of*

*Liturgical Music*

[alamastra@shswedesburg.org](mailto:alamastra@shswedesburg.org)

**Joanne D'Alessandro**

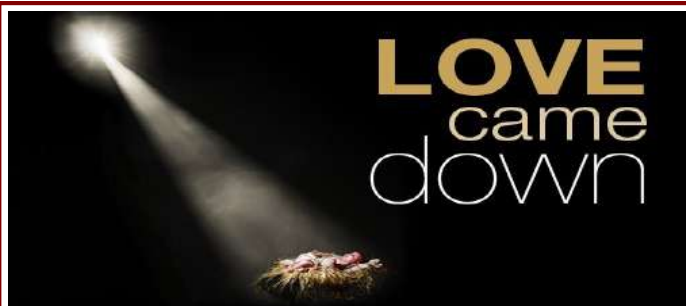
*Parish Office Manager*

[jdalessandro@shswedesburg.org](mailto:jdalessandro@shswedesburg.org)

**Joe & Jeff Houseal**

*Directors of Parish*

*& Cemetery Facilities*



Love came down at Christmas,  
Love all lovely, Love Divine;  
Love was born at Christmas,  
Star and Angels gave the sign.

Worship we the Godhead,  
Love incarnate, Love Divine;  
Worship we our Jesus:  
But wherewith for sacred sign?

Love shall be our token,  
Love be yours and Love be mine,  
Love to God and all men,  
Love for plea and gift and sign.

~Christina G. Rosetti

**Merry Christmas!**

Dear Parishioners,

On this glorious solemnity of Christmas, I happily greet you and wish you the joy and love of this holy season! To help us ponder more deeply on the wondrous Mystery which is Christmas, I offer for your consideration the following reflection penned by Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen:

*This is the way scripture describes Christmas – “The Word was made Flesh and dwelt among us.” Is there anything in our experience that can make us understand it? Suppose we take the word “dog.” A boy in a family often uses the word “dog,” and even talks about it so much that he almost begins to live in its companionship. The parents catch the enthusiasm and since they have shared in his desires, a dog is ordered. The bell rings at the front door. Everyone rushes to the hall, and there is a “dog!” Up until then “dog” was only a word. It is no longer a word. It is a “word made flesh.” It dwells in the family, and they behold its joy.*

*Christmas is the enfleshment of the eternal Person of God; the beginning in time of the Human Nature of Him Who is without beginning or end. When I go to a blackboard and write the word “Love,” the idea of loves does not begin to exist at that moment; it already had existence in my mind for years. What actually happens is that “love is made chalk and dwells on the blackboard.” So too, when Christ took upon Himself a manhood from the womb of His Mother Mary the “eternal World was made Flesh and dwelt among us.”*

*That is why Jesus only once in His Life said that He was born, but He immediately added that he “came into the world.” This is the way He always expressed His eternal Person – as “coming into the world,” because he had eternal pre-existence. He Who created the world is born in the world; He Who made time, is measured by it.*

*When, therefore, He moved about the earth He was God teaching through a human mouth, God healing through human touch, God suffering in a human body. And all this to make us Divine as he made Himself human.*

**Merry Christmas and God love you!**

**Father DiMaria**



**The Manger Throne**

Like silver lamps in a distant shrine,  
The stars are sparkling bright  
The bells of the city of God ring out,  
For the Son of Mary is born to-night.  
The gloom is past  
And the morn' at last  
Is coming with orient light.

No earthly songs are half so sweet  
As those which are filling the skies,  
And never a palace shone half so fair  
As the manger-bed where our Saviour lies;  
No night in the year  
Is half so dear  
As this which has ended our sighs.

The stars of heaven still shine as at first  
They gleamed on this wonderful night;  
The bells of the city of God peal out  
And the angels' song still rings in the height,  
And love still turns  
Where the Godhead burns  
Hid in flesh from fleshly sight.

Faith sees no longer the stable floor,  
The pavement of sapphire is there  
The clear light of heaven streams out to the world  
And the angels of God are crowding the air,  
And heaven and earth  
Through the spotless birth  
Are at peace on this night so fair.



## *Christmas is not for “Nice” People*

Merry Christmas! May Christ be born anew in each of our hearts on this glorious day!

The title for this bulletin column comes from a Christmas reflection written by Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen which you will find below. Before we turn to the late Bishop’s powerful meditation, I wish to offer a few of my own thoughts.

Christ was born into severe poverty. Since there was no room for him in the “inn” his miraculous birth by necessity occurred in a stable among the beasts of burden and various other animals. It certainly was not the romantic scene that our Christmas creches portray. Understandably, we wish to “dress up” the representation of the Savior’s place of birth because it is so difficult for us to associate the Divine with that which is poor, miserable, and ugly.

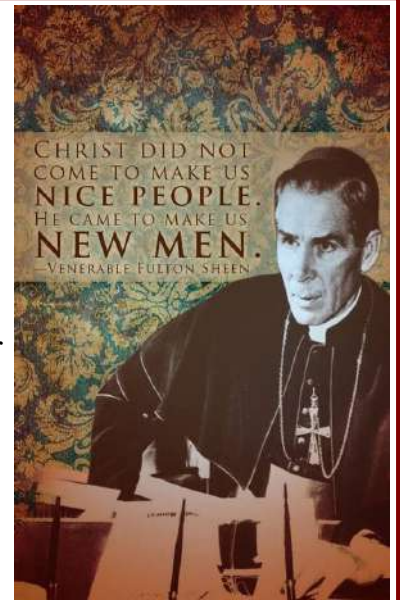
We need to keep ever before our minds, however, the teaching of Christ who tells us that “whatsoever you do to the least of my brethren you do unto me.” The desire to share the blessings we have received with the needy truly originates from the Holy Spirit. I would like to thank everyone who participated in our "Giving Tree" initiative this year. Your generosity made Christmas a bit brighter for the less fortunate among us.

### **Now to Bishop Sheen’s reflection:**

The Name that was given to God Who became Man was Jesus, which means Savior, Savior from our sins. Christmas is not for “nice” people; it is for “nasty” people. “Nice” people think they are good and need no Savior. “Nasty” people come to Him because they are convertible, aware of their own imperfections and deep sense of needing to be cleansed. Their emptiness is not meaningless, like that of a Grand Canyon, but rather like the emptiness of the manger that can be filled. They have a hunger and thirst for something not of themselves, and so they look to the Lord in the manger Who is very fond of “nasty” people.

One of the charges against Him was that He ate with sinners; the lost sheep was put upon the shoulders of the Good Shepherd and the ninety-nine were left in the field. The lost coin was found, and made an occasion for rejoicing, but there was no party or celebration for the other nine. The Savior takes a child on His knees, and says that he will enter the Kingdom of Heaven before the university professor. Because the Lord preferred “nasty” people to the “nice” people, it is very likely that if we could look up into heaven we should see some sights that would scandalize us. We would say: “Well, how did that woman get there” or, “How did he get in. I knew him when...”

There will be many in heaven whom we never expected to see there. The greatest surprise of all is that we will be there. God would have been Infinite Goodness if He had never made the world, but unless nasty persons had existed He never could have shown His Mercy toward us, and it is likely that He would never have become Man.



## MASS INTENTIONS

### 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*

### Monday, December 26

**8:00am Maureen Marinari**

*Requested by The Palmer Family*

### Tuesday, December 27

**8:00am Arnold Bores**

*Requested by Son, Robert & Daughter-in-law,  
Barbara Bores*

### Wednesday, December 28

**8:00am Sanford F. Smith**

**(Anniversary Remembrance)**

*Requested by The Smith Family*

### Thursday, December 29

**8:00am Filomena Manzo**

*Requested by Barbara Pupek & Family*

### Friday, December 30

**8:00am Mary Beth Coscia**

*Requested by Mom & Dad*

### Saturday, December 31

**8:00am Kathy Zielinski**

*Requested by The Petrella Family*

**4:00pm Adele & Ronald DelMauro**

*Requested by Daughter, Margaret & Ron Halas*

### Sunday, January 1

**8:00am Anna Kerick**

**(Anniversary Remembrance Dec. 31<sup>st</sup>)**

*Requested by Son, Tom & Fran*

**10:15am For the People of Our Parish**

## LITURGICAL MINISTRIES



### *Let Us Serve The Lord With Gladness!*

The following Ministers are scheduled for our Parish Masses.

#### Saturday evening, December 31:

**4:00pm**

**Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion:**

Andy Moletzsky

**Lector:** Danielle Cantando

#### Sunday morning, January 1:

**8:00am**

**Lector:** Pete Wisniewski

**10:15am**

**Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion:**

Barbara JanFrancisco

**Lector:** David Turner

### Celebrant's Mass Schedule

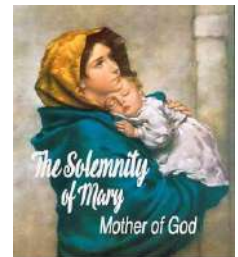
#### Saturday evening, December 31:

**4:00pm - Father DiMaria**

#### Sunday morning, January 1:

**8:00am - Father Shea**

**10:15am—Father DiMaria**



### *Weekly Report*

December 10—11, 2022

\$7,209.00

*Thank you for your support of Our Parish!*





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

*Aimee Fromm*

*at the Request of Mom & Dad*

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



*Kathy Zielinski*

*At the request of The Lachowicz Family*

### *Sacred Heart Pro Life Holy Hour*

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



Our Parish received the following note of  
thanks for our November Poor Box offering to  
The St. Francis Inn:

Dear Father DiMaria,

Many thanks to you and your parishioners for  
your most generous donation of \$504.00 We  
are very grateful to you for supporting our  
ministry to the poor.

This is a difficult time for those in need. Your  
gift will help relieve some of their hardships.

May our gracious God bless all of you with a  
joyous and peaceful Christmas Season!

Gratefully,

The Franciscans of Saint  
Francis Inn



*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.

### *In Your Charity, Please Pray For Our Sick*

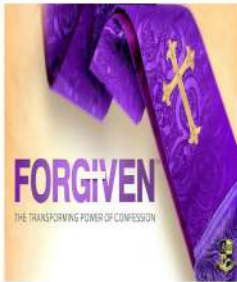


Marge Leszczynski; Michael Dulaney (Brother-in-law of John Puzio, Jr.); Dolores Burton; Fran & Rob Worrall (Sister & Brother-in-law of Joe Murphy); Rose Coscia; Francis Coscia; Jeff Simmons (Son of John & Fran Simmons); Joan Coscia (Sister-in-law of Francis & Rose Coscia); Marion Raup; Joseph Saboe; 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.



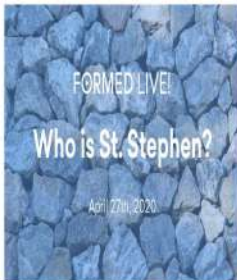
# THIS WEEK ON FORMED

Week of December 25, 2022



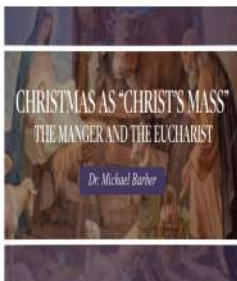
## Forgiven - Session 1: Where are You?

As we make resolutions for 2023, don't forget about your spiritual well-being! Watch our Forgiven series, so you can help guide friends and family to new spiritual beginnings!



## Who is St. Stephen?

Join Dr. Gray and Dr. Barber as they discuss the life of St. Stephen, first Christian martyr and heroic leader of the early Church.



## Christmas as "Christ's Mass": The Manger and the Eucharist by Dr. Michael Barber

Dr. Michael Barber explains the extraordinary connection between Christmas and the Eucharist, coining the great solemnity as "Christ's Mass."

Our parish has a FORMED subscription.  
Visit [signup.formed.org](http://signup.formed.org) and select our parish name.



## The Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God:

(New Year's), December 31<sup>st</sup>  
4:00pm

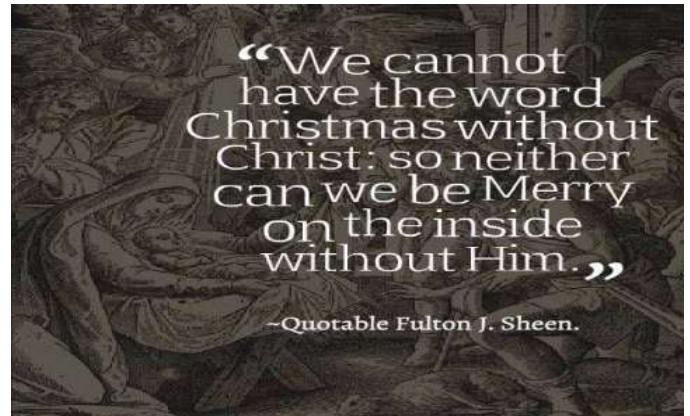
New Year's Day, January 1<sup>st</sup>  
8:00am & 10:15am



## Companions in Prayer and Ministry

- our next meeting will be on **Sunday, February 5<sup>th</sup>** 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.



## DECEMBER 25, 2022 - THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

Reflection by Rev. Leonard N. Peterson

Bright sunshine on a beautiful October afternoon fills my window as I set about writing this Christmas Reflection. That's the way it goes when one has deadlines to meet. But I had around me enough of those gift Christmas cards sent by many charitable groups every Autumn to set the right mood.



As I rummaged through my Christmas file to find something different for you, when what to my wondering eyes should appear but a 50-year-old document I forgot I had! It was produced so long ago that the paper has taken on a tinge of tan. It was typewriter produced, using what was then the best technology available. The paper was no less than the official stationery of Cardinal O'Hara High School in Springfield, Delaware County, PA, where yours truly was halfway through my third year of teaching teens.

The piece was entitled "Christmas Liturgy, 1972," which sounds so long ago and far away. I vaguely remember being asked to compose the priest's prayers for a Liturgy prayed by the whole school a few days before the holiday break (it still being officially Advent). Here below I present for your Christmas reflection the Preface for that Mass that I composed way back then, mostly as I wrote it, except for a bit of updated references to the war in Ukraine, and the natural disasters of devastating wildfires, floods and famine in our present world of 2022.

*"It is truly right and absolutely just, that we give You thanks and praise, Loving Father, for the joys of Christmas, soon to be represented on this altar.*

*Those joys depend not on human effort to bring them about. If they did, the effort would be cut short by the sadness of an unjust war waged by a proud and stubborn dictator; devastating destruction of people's homes by fire and flood; of crowded prisons; of sad orphans; the troubled sick and the lonely old. Only God can be dependable to spread real and true joy.*



*We truly believe that Christmas is 'The Mass of Christ', in which He began the offering of Himself in a wooden manger on a bed of straw, only newly emerged from the womb of Mary our Blessed Virgin Mother. That same offering of His would climax on a Roman cross of wood. A glorious Resurrection would follow, on a day that outranks even Christmas.*

*For this generosity of God, all people can be deeply grateful. They can also rejoice that the Word of Promise grew to be the Man of action and the God of compassion.*

*The angels were there, along with His holy parents Mary and Joseph. They accompanied the launch of His new outlook; a new world of bursting Hope. And so we join in with their hymn of praise for all to hear, by singing 'Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might...'*

I trust that these mostly half-century old words of mine, now presented here via a gadget called a "Word Processor," will help bring Christmas peace to you and yours.

