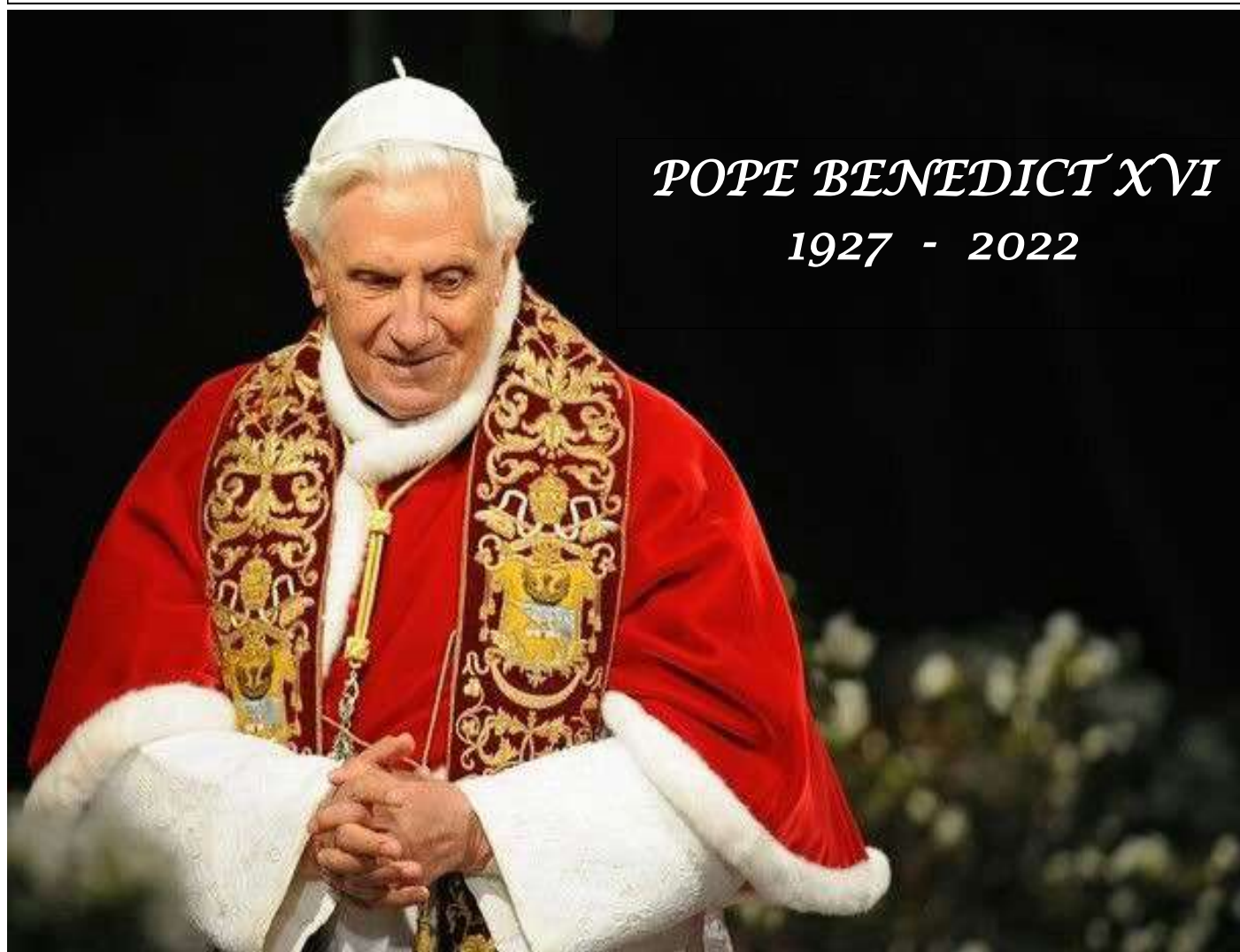


Sacred Heart Parish

120 Jefferson Street ~ Swedesburg, Pennsylvania, 19405

(610) 275-1750



POPE BENEDICT XVI

1927 - 2022

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

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

Joanne D'Alessandro

Parish Office Manager

jdalessandro@shswedesburg.org

Linda Moser

Coordinator of Religious Education

lmoser@shswedesburg.org

Joe & Jeff Houseal

*Directors of Parish
& Cemetery Facilities*

SUNDAY, JANUARY 8, 2023

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

Our Lord called Pope Benedict XVI from this life on December 31, 2022 at the age of 95. Funeral Rites were celebrated for the late Pontiff on Thursday, January 5, 2023. The following reflection on his life comes from the Norbertine Friars of St. Michael's Abbey in Silverado, California.

Pope Benedict XVI—his life, his work, and his papacy—was less a product of this age than an antidote for its ills.

This age has seen darkness; the late pontiff saw some of this first-hand. In the ninety-five years since he was born, the world has suffered from the violence of World War II; from the diabolical industry of the Holocaust; from the bloody rise and collapse of totalitarian regimes; from the creation and detonation of nuclear weapons on innocent lives; from international terrorism, cynicism, and nihilism. There has been an astounding rejection of the value of human life—the widespread legalization of abortion and an increased promotion of euthanasia, the rise of sweatshops and a resurgence of slavery.



And yet, the thing that marks this great pontiff's legacy in my mind—perhaps more than his brilliant theological mind and his steadfast defense of tradition and truth—is his insistence that now, more than ever, *we need to be joyful*.

I think back to an interview he gave in 1997—then as Cardinal Ratzinger—in which he addressed the challenges that the Church faced in this dim postmodern age. During the interview, he urged a return to “unembarrassed joy”: a recognition, in faith, that “the world is basically good, that God is there and is good. That it is good to live and to be a human being. This results, then, in the courage to rejoice, which in turn becomes commitment to making sure that other people, too, can rejoice and receive good news.”

We need, more than ever, to recognize that truth is real, that beauty is powerful, and that life is fundamentally and unchangeably good. This is the work of Christians today: to be joyful. So, even as we mourn the loss of Benedict—a great pontiff, a brilliant scholar, and a faithful servant of Christ—we can remind ourselves that this is an occasion, too, for joy.

Let us pray that our beloved shepherd, Pope Benedict XVI has entered into the everlasting joy that God promises all who love Him.

WISE MEN SEEKING JESUS

Wise men seeking Jesus
Traveled from afar,
Guided by their journey
By a beautiful star.
But if we desire Him,
He is close at hand;
For our native country
Is our Holy Land.

Prayerful souls may find Him
By our quiet lakes,
Meet Him on our hillsides
Where the morning breaks.
In our fertile cornfields,
While the sheaves are bound,
In our busy markets
Jesus may be found.

Every peaceful village
In our land might be,
Made by Jesus' presence
Like sweet Bethany,
He is more than near us,
If we love Him well;
For He seeketh ever
In our heart to dwell.

- James East

December Poor Box Offering

A total of \$411.00 was collected in our poor box during the month of December. The offering will be given to the Padre



Pio Prayer Center situated in the former St. Joachim Church property in the Frankford section of Philadelphia. Several years ago, the Capuchin Franciscan Friars obtained this property in order to reach out to the residents of this impoverished neighborhood. They describe their mission in this fashion:

Our mission is to rebuild the local Church by witnessing to the Gospel in the footsteps of St. Francis of Assisi.

We serve Christ in Mass and adoration, by building relationships with our community, and by seeking the face of Christ in the men and women we encounter on the streets.

We seek to form disciples for their journey of faith through worship, relationships, and inviting others to serve with us.

Their mission takes the form of a prayerful Franciscan presence as they seek to assist the poor through "English as a Second Language" programs, a food pantry, distribution of food to the homeless, and 12 Step support groups for addicts and those who come from dysfunctional families.



Epiphany House Blessing Kits are available in the back of church.

The Baptism of the Lord ~ January 9, 2023





MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, January 7

4:00pm For the People of the Parish

Sunday, January 8

8:00am Living & Deceased Members of the Holy Name Society

Requested by Sacred Heart Holy Name Society

10:15am Daniel DiRado

Requested by Rosemary Giovinco & Family

Monday, January 9

8:00am Health Blessings for Genevieve Bottonoff

Tuesday, January 10

8:00am Monica Aquilante

Requested by Barbara Roskos

Wednesday, January 11

8:00am Margaret O'Sullivan

Requested by Elisa Pagnotti

Thursday, January 12

8:00am Stephen Gober

Requested by Thomas Burke

Friday, January 13

8:00am Margaret "Peg" Palmer

Requested by Mr. & Mrs. Francis Coscia

Saturday, January 14

8:00am Lorraine Farrell

Requested by Jeanette & Joe

4:00pm Daniel DiRado

Requested by Joe & Netta

Sunday, January 15

8:00am For the People of Our Parish

10:15am Patricia Zaremba

Requested by Sister, Valencia



LITURGICAL MINISTRIES



Let Us Serve The Lord With Gladness!

The following Ministers are scheduled for our Parish Masses.

Saturday evening, January 14:

4:00pm

Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion:

Larry Kilian

Lector: Helen Surman

Sunday morning, January 15:

8:00am

Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion:

Margie Pruskowski

Lector: Michelle Efthimiadou

10:15am

Lector: John Keidel

Celebrant's Mass Schedule

Saturday evening, January 14:

4:00pm - Father DiMaria

Sunday morning, January 15:

8:00am - Father DiMaria

10:15am—Father Shea



Weekly Report

December 24—25, 2022

\$5,687.00

Thank you for your support of Our Parish!



Upcoming Monthly Special Collection

In your generosity, please remember

The Weekend of January 14—15, 2023

Catholic Relief Service



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

Mary Beth Coscia

*at the Request of Mom & Dad and
Sal & Casey*



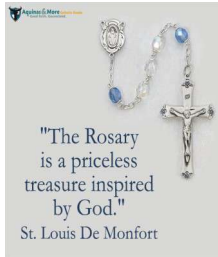
**Pray For Our
Military Personnel**

*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.

***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.*



Saint Augustine Cemetery

Flowers and other Christmas decorations placed on gravesites at St. Augustine Cemetery will be removed beginning this week, January 9th.



***Companions in Prayer and
Ministry*** - our next meeting

will be on **Sunday, February 5th** in the Convent Meeting Room after the 10:15 Mass. 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.

*Try to laugh a lot, because life is
funny, and everybody today is
too serious. The only tradedy in
the world, my friend, is sin.*

Mother Angelica



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



Betty Lilick (*Sister of Eileen Bralski*); Ronald S. Smith; Margaret Halas, Ronald Halas, Michael Martin (*Friend of Ronald & Margaret Halas*); 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*); Melonie Mitchell; John Smoczylo; Teddy Swede (*Brother of Gloria Swede*); Laurie Ronan (*Niece of Gloria Swede*); Edward Keszczyk.



Attention All Super Seniors and All Those Who Wish to Become Super Seniors:

Our next meeting will be held at the Swedesburg Firehouse on Thursday, January 19, 2023

beginning at 12:00 and ending at 2:00ish. Remember to bring your lunch/ coffee, tea, water will be provided.

Our Christmas Luncheon was a grand success. Almost 40 attended and each one expressed what a wonderful time was had. What was so wonderful was the fact that for two hours we relaxed, enjoyed one another's company, had a delicious catered luncheon, laughed, and remembered the true meaning of Christmas by beginning with Advent hymns and then moving into Christmas carols. The festive Christmas spirit was absorbed by all!

Thank you to all who attended and to the Board and Events Committee for all that was put into making this an event we want repeated. 55+ - please consider joining our group. New members are most welcome!

**God bless and Happy New Year to all!
Sister MaryAnne**



**Save the Date –
Wednesday,
January 11**

Caring for Friends Ministry will meet in the parish hall at 6:00 PM.

As the bitter cold weather is upon us we are in great need of Homemade Soups to distribute to our less fortunate neighbors.

It's as easy as 1 2 3:

1. Pick up containers in the back of church.
2. Make your homemade soup in the comfort of your home and fill containers ¾ full. Print type of soup and date on the lid.
3. Freeze soup.

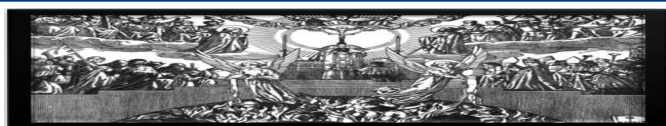
You can bring your frozen soup Wednesday night January 11 or call/text me (Lisa Pagnotti 610 639 7704) and I will pick it up on Wednesday during the day. Easy peasy!!!

Personal care items are in great need as well.

Monetary donations can be put in the Sunday collection basket and mark CFF on the envelope. Checks are to be made out to Sacred Heart.

As always we thank you for your continued support and generous donations.

Your Caring for Friends Ministry



“The Communion of Saints”

This phrase is spoken each time we pray the Apostles Creed. Do we fully understand the belief we proclaim when we say these words? Come to Patricians to learn more!

The next Patricians Discussion will take place on Wednesday, January 18th

6:45 – 8:45 p.m.

**in the coffee hour room (enter hall from Ford Street lot)
St. John the Baptist Catholic Church
502 Ford St., Bridgeport, PA**

(No Commitment – Meetings are Monthly – Come When You Can!)
The Society of Patricians is sponsored by the Legion of Mary.
More info: r.edel.lukens@gmail.com or 610-256-7125

The society of the Patricians is an informal group of adult Catholics who meet monthly under the direction of Fr. Bill Cantrell to learn more about the Catholic Faith so that they can better share it with others.

Please come, and bring a friend!

Refreshments will be served and free literature will be available.



*A big shout out to all of our loyal Caring for Friends supporters. In total our **Caring for Friends Ministry** donated \$4,650.00 in gift cards to Martha's Choice Marketplace.*

A special thank you to the Knights of Columbus for their generous donation of \$500.00. We appreciate their continued support and generosity.

JANUARY 8, 2023 - THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

Reflection by Rev. Leonard N. Peterson

The first thought I had after thinking of today's ensemble of Readings was that of an eclipse of the moon. It's a picture of a slowly creeping darkness overcoming brilliance completely, at least for a brief time. The familiar conflict of virtue against sin that we experience almost daily comes to the birth story of Jesus, and the present day life of His Church, our Church too.

The extended Christmas story easily conjures up the struggles we all have against negative powers. Almost as soon as the last notes of the beloved Christmas carols fade from our hearing, we got the jolt of St. Stephen's cruel martyrdom on December 26. That was followed up with the slaughter of the Holy Innocents, with an easy application to modern day abortion.

In all of that, we are taught by the Holy Spirit, speaking through the Scriptures, not to give in to any Pollyanna outlook on life. Or about the process of our redemption. It involves crisis and the Cross before any rejoicing over the Resurrection.

We professed followers of the true Messiah, Our Lord and Master Jesus Christ, have to be ready for repeats, in substance, of all the pain and setbacks recorded in Church history over the centuries.

Another image, like that of an eclipse that entered my mind is that of an imaginary "Gloomy Gus Association" at its annual convention. All members must dine on cold pea soup with bland crackers for three days and learn what to do with the fresh pin cushions distributed to them with an assortment of newly minted pins. Each pin represents a potential negativity they can introduce into anything positive in the coming year. King Herod would of course be a charter member of the group.

Returning to reality, I'd like to ask my fellow optimists to celebrate today this outbreak of the Good News of Christ. To free it from any confinement to a past time and place. This news came via the Magi visit to the vastly wide world of the Gentile nations. That should elicit an "Alleluia" from us all. That leads me to this easy depiction of the problem out there in Secular City:

Once upon a time an optimist invited a pessimist to go duck hunting. The optimist wanted to show off his newly registered hunting dog that could do things no other dog could. The pessimist looked at the dog and said, "Looks like a mutt to me."

At that moment, a flock of ducks flew over. The optimist shot one of the ducks and it fell into the middle of the lake. He snapped his fingers and his new dog ran out on the water, picked up the duck, and ran back on the water. The optimist took the duck from the dog's mouth, turned to the pessimist and said, "What do you think of the dog now?" The pessimist replied, "Dumb dog—can't even swim."

God love you and give you His peace.

