

Sacred Heart Parish

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

**AVE!
AVE!
AVE MARIA!**

**OUR LADY
OF
LOURDES**

PRAY FOR US!

February 11th



OUR LADY
OF
LOURDES

*Let's
work for
heaven.
All the
rest is
nothing.*

St. Bernadette



Rev. Peter J. DiMaria
Pastor

frdimaria@shswedesburg.org

Rev. Thomas A. Nasta
Pastor Emeritus

Rev. James J. Shea, Sch. P.
Weekend Assistant

Sr. MaryAnne Bolger, IHM
Parish Services Director
srmaryanne@shswedesburg.org

Linda Moser
Coordinator of Religious Education
lmoser@shswedesburg.org

Leo Brady
Sacristan

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:

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

FOCUS Missionary:

Caitlyn Sechuk
csechuk@shswedesburg.org

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*

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2024
SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



Ceiling Update

As of this writing all the wooden “straps” have been attached to the church ceiling. The work crew has already taken away 20 large bags of debris from the attic. They continue to clean the attic and repair all the “locks and keys” of the plaster system. Soon they will begin applying the necessary chemicals which will penetrate the plaster creating a strong and unbreakable bond with the plaster and wooden lathes.

The company has been here for approximately four weeks. It will be another two to four weeks before their work is completed. The large lift presently in the church will remain there throughout the entire process.

Vision 26 Campaign Update

Last Sunday we received two extraordinarily generous monetary gifts to the parish. One parishioner donated a gift in the amount of \$5,000.00 and another parishioner donated a \$10,000.00 gift. Their generosity is amazing!

We need all our parishioners to step forward and support our Vision 26 campaign so that we may maintain and beautify our facilities and further the parish mission. We sincerely thank everyone who has already donated to Vision 26 campaign and encourage you to continue to give generously remembering that God is never outdone in generosity.

Lourdes and 60 Minutes

Last Spring 60 Minutes did a special 14 minute segment on Lourdes and the most recently recognized miraculous cure of a French Franciscan religious Sister. Father DiMaria referenced this program in his homily today. If you are interested in watching this fascinating story, please visit the following link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EaG7mesmdH4>

Our Lady of Lourdes

February 11:

-Reverend Matthew R. Mauriello



The story of Lourdes is well known. Between February 11 and July 16, 1858, the Blessed Virgin Mary appeared eighteen times to fourteen-year-old Bernadette Soubirous in that small town located in the foothills of the Pyrenees mountains of southern France.

Bernadette was born on January 7, 1844, the eldest of six children of Francis Soubirous and Louise Caserot. She was a delicate girl who suffered from asthma and cholera. She could neither read nor write and spoke only the Occitan dialect of her area. Her family was sinking into poverty, and the day the first apparition took place she went to gather firewood along the bank of the River Gave to help her mother.

Her attention was drawn to the noise of rustling bushes near the Grotto of Massabielle, from the French *vielle masse* meaning ancient mass. Then Bernadette saw a beautiful young girl of sixteen or seventeen. She described this girl as "dressed in a white robe, girded at the waist with a blue ribbon. She wore upon her head a white veil which gave just a glimpse of hair. Her feet were bare but covered by the last folds of her robe and a yellow rose was upon each of them. She held on her right arm a rosary of white beads with a chain of gold shining like the two roses on her feet."

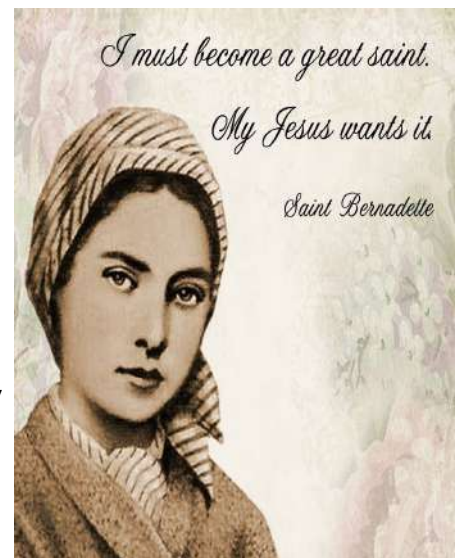
Bernadette knelt and began to pray the rosary. At the end of the five decades the woman smiled and disappeared. The young visionary returned and on February 18 Our Lady began her message telling young Bernadette, "I do not promise to make you happy in this life but in the next." On February 24, Mary asked for penance and prayer for the conversion of sinners and the following day, she instructed Bernadette to dig the ground near the grotto. From that a spring came forth which to this day is used for the bath by pilgrims to Lourdes.

At the apparition of March 2, Bernadette was instructed by Our Lady to "tell the priests that people should come here in procession and that a chapel should be built on the site." On the Feast of the Annunciation, March 25, the Blessed Virgin told Bernadette in the dialect of Lourdes, "I am the Immaculate Conception." This dogma had been defined by Pope Pius IX just a few years earlier on December 8, 1854.

The Basilica at Lourdes was consecrated in 1876 and the faithful, countless in number, flock in pious pilgrimage to the holy grotto. It is there that their faith and devotion are aroused and they recommit themselves to conform their lives to the Christian message. There, as well, miraculous favors are granted and healings, both physical and spiritual, have taken place. Great emphasis is placed on devotion to the Eucharist and just as at the wedding feast of Cana, Mary points to her Son.

The liturgical feast of Our Lady of Lourdes was established for February 11, approved by Pope Leo XIII, and first granted to the Diocese of Tarbes in the year 1890. Less than twenty years later, on November 13, 1907, his successor, Pope St. Pius X proclaimed that it be observed throughout the universal Church.

The visionary Bernadette entered the Sisters of Charity at Nevers in 1866 and was given the name of Sister Mary Bernarda. She worked there as sacristan and avoided publicity as best she could. She referred to herself as "a broom which Our Lady used, but now I have been put back in my corner." She died on April 16, 1879, at the young age of thirty-five, was beatified in 1925 by Pope Pius XI and canonized by him on the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, December 8, 1933. She appears in the church records as St. Mary Bernarda but in the hearts of the faithful she is affectionately remembered as St. Bernadette.





MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, February 10

4:00pm Martha & Frank Opielski, Sr.

Requested by Wanda & Family

Sunday, February 11

8:00am Fred Zugay

Requested by Rebecca Sparacino & Family

10:15am For the People of Our Parish

Monday, February 12

8:00am Josephine & Donald Pierce

Requested by The Family

Tuesday, February 13

8:00am Robert Ruggiano, Sr.

Requested by Ken Nadwodny

Wednesday, February 14

8:00am Catharine "Kit" Armstrong

Requested by Lisa Pagnotti



Thursday, February 15

8:00am Edward Keszczyk

Requested by Mr. & Mrs. John Simmons

Friday, February 16

8:00am Deceased Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary

Requested by IHM Sisters of Sacred Heart

Saturday, February 17

8:00am Jack Guzewicz

Requested by Pat & Donna McCloskey

4:00pm Marjorie Egles

Requested by The Capaldo Family

Sunday, February 18

8:00am For the People of Our Parish

10:15am Donna Puskar

Requested by Peter & Linda Korpel



Let Us Serve The Lord With Gladness!

The following Ministers are scheduled for our Parish Masses.

Saturday evening, February 17:

4:00pm

Lector: Connie Capaldo

Sunday morning, February 18:

8:00am

Lector: John Keidel

10:15am

Lector: Sal DiNenna

Priest & Extraordinary Minister Schedules

The Priest and Extraordinary Minister Schedules will not be published in the bulletin until the health status of Father James Shea is settled. *Note to our Extraordinary Ministers:* The schedule through the online scheduling system is the most up-to-date.



Weekly Report

February 3 - 4, 2024

\$6,287.00

Thank you for your support of Our Parish!



Ash Wednesday

Lent begins on February 14th 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.



Lenten Eucharistic Adoration & Stations of the Cross

Beginning on Wednesday, February 21st and on each Wednesday of Lent there will be Eucharistic Adoration starting at 6:00 p.m. and ending with Stations of the Cross and Benediction at 7:30 p.m. each week.

Dear Friends in Christ,

Beginning on Wednesday, the season of Lent will be upon us once more, a season which encourages each of us to grow spiritually and experience a deepening of our relationship with God during the forty days of Lent, which culminate at Easter with the commemoration of Our Lord's Passion, Death, and Resurrection.

The purpose of Lent is not to make us feel disheartened or uncomfortable in the way we live out our faith, but it is a call to self-examination and for taking a fresh look at our attitude and behavior towards others. Often unknown to ourselves we can little by little become self-centered and lapse into an indifference toward others.

Our baptism into the Body of Christ does not allow us to pass by on the other side and so ignore the needs and sufferings of those around us. The traditional penitential nature of Lent is not intended to punish us, but to remind us of our need for God's grace and of our obligation to put others before ourselves. Awareness of the presence of God surrounding us and of the need to engage in practical acts of charity will ensure that we grow in God's grace and so become ever more Christ-like in this holy season.

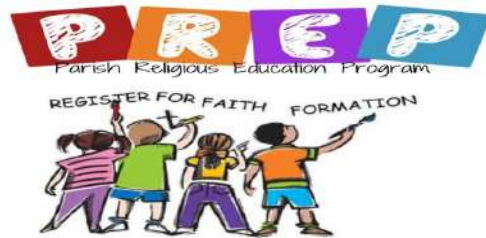
Prayer needs to have an essential place in our Lenten exercises. The problems and tragedies of the world can at times appear to overwhelm us and leave us with a sense of helplessness, but we must never underestimate the effect our prayer has before God.

Prayer unites us with all the saints in heaven, and so we are joined in one great surge of prayer which arises before God day and night. To know the gift of prayer and its un-failing power is one of the great graces of Lent.

Friends, as we embark on our Lenten journey, let us be cheerful and of good heart. Let us thank God for this time of grace and for the opportunity to grow spiritually ourselves, while being conscious of others who may need our help.

Almighty God wants only what is best for us, and He has given us His only Son as proof of that fact. Let us keep our gaze firmly fixed on Christ this Lent, both as a Church and as individual baptized Catholics, for in His own marvelous words He is the Way, the Truth, and the Life.

God love you!
Father DiMaria



Registration for Sacred Heart PREP Summer Session is open!

What is Summer-Session Parish Religious Education?

The Summer-Session Program is an intensive (5 day) Religious Education Program designed as an alternative model to the traditional weekly program. Each day your child will work on a different unit of the curriculum and complete their level text in the week. Our students will also engage in faith-based group activities.

PREP Summer Session for the 2024 will run June 17–21 from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm.

Forms are available on the parish website under the PREP forms tab or can be found in the back of the church. Upon completion of the form, please return it with the applicable fee (see below) to the Rectory office, Attention PREP, Sacred Heart Parish, 120 Jefferson Street, Swedesburg, PA 19405 or place in the collection basket in an envelope marked PREP.

PREP fees for 2024-2025 are as follows: \$100 for one child, \$150 for two or more children. Any concerns, please contact the PREP Coordinator. (An additional \$15.00 late fee will apply for all registrations received after April 1.)





Giving Hope TO ALL

CATHOLICCHARITIESAPPEAL.ORG

Your Impact



**DID YOU KNOW
1 IN 5 PEOPLE**

in the Greater Philadelphia area count on the Catholic Charities Appeal for help and hope? We may not notice them, but they are there in every county, town, parish, and neighborhood.

It's time we focus on the women and children looking for shelter, focus on those experiencing poverty and looking for a meal, and focus on individuals with special needs looking for opportunity.

Every year, the Catholic Charities Appeal impacts nearly one million lives. But this is not possible without your help. Your gift matters more than you know.

CATHOLICCHARITIESAPPEAL.ORG

Ways to Give

The Catholic Charities Appeal is recognized as a non-profit institution. As such, all gifts are tax-deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law. It has its own Employer Identification Number (EIN) and receives a separate financial audit. Besides gifts of cash, donors to the 2024 Catholic Charities Appeal may contribute in many other ways, each offering tax advantages according to their circumstances:

- Pledge Gift
- Gifts of Cash
- Matching Gifts
- Electronic Fund
- Transfer (EFT)
- Gifts of Securities
- Planned Gifts

For more information about any of the ways you can support the 2024 Catholic Charities Appeal, please call The Catholic Foundation of Greater Philadelphia at 215.587.5650 or email cca@thecfpg.org.



@catholiccharitiesappeal
 @catholiccharitiesphila
 @catholicappeal

CATHOLICCHARITIESAPPEAL.ORG
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Sick and Retired Priests

VILLA ST. JOSEPH



"I have been a priest for the Archdiocese of Philadelphia for 52 years and pastor at Saint Paul's Parish for 28 years. My parishioners mean so much to me; I consider them family. This is a vibrant parish where people live their sacraments every single day. Martha's Choice Marketplace and Farm is a great example: they are on our parish grounds, and I could not think of a better way to see people living out their faith and leading by example. I enjoy my active ministry, and as my retirement approaches, I am hoping to still be of assistance to any parish in need. If you ask any retired priest, the first thing they miss is the people. Many of my brother priests live at Villa Saint Joseph. These are priests who have served you, the people of the Archdiocese, their whole lives.

The Catholic Charities Appeal helps support retired priests - a beautiful gift and heartfelt sign of our appreciation to God for the gift of His priesthood. The Appeal allows each one of us to honor God with our whole heart. The Appeal gives us the ability to live the Mass, to live our faith."

- Father Harry McCreedy, Pastor,
St. Paul's Catholic Church

MANY ELDERLY PRIESTS WHO HAVE GIVEN THEIR LIVES IN SERVICE TO THE FAITHFUL OF THE ARCHDIOCESE OF PHILADELPHIA NOW HAVE HEALTH ISSUES, PHYSICAL DISABILITIES, AND NEED CARE AND SUPPORT. BOTH VILLA SAINT JOSEPH IN DARBY AND REGINA COELI RESIDENCE IN WARRINGTON PLAY IMPORTANT ROLES IN THE CONTINUUM OF CLERICAL LIFE.

**SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME ~
February 11, 2024**

Reflection by Rev. Leonard N. Peterson

I wouldn't expect any of you to recognize the name of Joseph Carey Merrick. He was a victim of a very rare disease called different names at various times. It is characterized by a severe and ugly distortion of the body, particularly of the skull and upper torso. The disease was nicknamed "elephantiasis" because often enough that was what many victims resembled. In fact, a 1980 movie about Merrick's sad life was entitled "The Elephant Man." (Google "The Elephant Man" or "Joseph Merrick" to learn more.)



Projecting back to the time when Jesus walked, there was a nearly equal disfigurement brought on by leprosy. The great fear then was that by just being near a leper would transmit the infection. Remember those similar Covid 19 restrictions? Thus, in the Old Testament Book of Leviticus read today we hear of a whole section of laws regarding what to do as a healthy person and what the victims themselves had to do.

All of this provides meditation material for us about sin—all sin but especially the mortal kind – seen by many spiritual writers as "leprosy of the soul." Serious sin disfigures our souls, making us repulsive to God and angels alike. Just because we can't literally see this effect in us doesn't make it unreal. Often a sinner will feel very nervous and uncomfortable in the presence of a genuinely good person, place, or thing. The only person happy about us when we fall is the devil. Please don't write Satan off as an outdated figure locked up in the Bible. Or as a little red gnome with a pitchfork. He is a real fallen angel, superior to us in intellect and cunning. A genuine hater of God. Jesus spoke of him multiple times.

How coincidental that this gospel appears on this 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time, designated by Pope St. John Paul II as "World Day of the Sick." Yes, it is meant for us to pray and help all who are ill. By extension, also of all people sick with sin or spiritual leprosy.

Today we are only 3 days out from Ash Wednesday and the great penitential season of Lent. Let that fact sink into your consciousness as we prepare for it. As for sin, I found a long list of contrasts between how we look at sin and how God does, written anonymously. Here is just a pertinent part:

"Man calls it an accident; God calls it an abomination.
Man calls it a blunder; God calls it blindness.
Man calls it a defect; God calls it a disease.
Man calls it a luxury; God calls it leprosy."

God love you and give you His peace.



Monday Night Rosary - There will be a public recitation of the rosary in church each Monday at 7 p.m. Please join us!

