

Sacred Heart Parish

120 Jefferson Street ~ Swedesburg, Pennsylvania, 19405

(610) 275-1750

And behold, the

STAR.

MATTHEW 2:9



©JPPC

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

[srmayanne@shswedesburg.org](mailto: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, JANUARY 7, 2024
THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD



Church Maintenance Update – Church Ceiling

Last weekend I spoke at all the Masses and explained the need to address the problems which have arisen with the vaulted plaster ceiling in our church. Several months ago, I requested an inspection of the church's ceiling as I was aware of what had happened at St. Patrick's Church in Norristown. (A few years ago, large chunks of the ceiling at

St. Patrick's began to fall which necessitated the closure of the church and an almost two-year major repair effort which was quite costly.)

Knowing the age of our building, I thought that there might be the possibility of future problems for us as there had been for St. Patrick's Church. The inspection revealed that the plaster on our ceiling is compromised. The compromise occurred because of water leaks in the roof and decades' worth of excessive humidity in the attic during the summer months. A new roof was placed on the main body of the church during Father Nasta's pastorate. An attic exhaust system was installed during this past summer to relieve the space of its excessive heat.

After consulting with the Property Services Office of the Archdiocese as well as with our finance and stewardship committees it was agreed that the stabilization and preservation of our ceiling was a necessity. We have hired the John Tiedemann Company to stabilize the ceiling with a state -of-the-art restoration system developed by a Canadian firm called Historic Plaster Conservation Services (HPCS).

We have a wood lath and plaster ceiling which functions as a suspended system. However, over time and because of water damage and humidity ceilings such as ours deteriorate systemically. The HPCS method addresses the entire ceiling rather than just isolated spots. This is a labor-intensive project which will begin on Monday, January 8th and will take between six and eight weeks to complete.

While the church will be able to be used for daily Mass and the weekend Masses, it will be closed Monday through Friday immediately after daily Mass. For safety reasons, no one maybe in church while the workmen are on the job. The cost of this project is \$320,000.00.

Funeral Masses

Beginning on January 8th and until the ceiling work is completed, we will not be able to conduct any Funeral Masses in our parish church. Instead, all funerals will take place at the former Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church (St. John the Baptist) on Ford Street in Bridgeport. Father DiMaria and parish staff will conduct and assist with any Sacred Heart parishioner's funeral which will need to take place at St. John's during the time while construction is happening.

Eucharistic Wednesdays Suspended

Due to the work which will occur in our Church, Eucharistic Adoration on Wednesdays will be suspended until further notice.

Pro-Life Wednesday Holy Hour

Due to the work which will occur in our Church, the weekly Noon time pro-life holy hour will take place at Peter & Linda Korpel's home. Please contact Linda Korpel at lindaskorpel@gmail.com for more information.

Convent News!

We are blessed with the presence of four Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary who live in our parish convent. While Sr. MaryAnn Bolger ministers here at Sacred Heart, Sr. Rosemary DePaul, Sr. Dolores Joseph, and Sr. Elenore Joseph all minister at St. Patrick's Parish in Norristown.

The Sisters of our convent have been invited by their congregation's Motherhouse to participate in the formation process of the congregation's newest postulant, Samantha Rintoul. Samantha is a native of Minot, North Dakota and is discerning a religious vocation with the IHMs. Samantha and the postulant directress, Sr. Mary Ann Spaetti, IHM will reside in our convent for the next several months. We welcome Sr. Mary Ann Spaetti and Samantha to our parish.



Royal Presents

**The off'rings of the Eastern kings of old
Unto our Lord were incense, myrrh and gold;
Incense because a God; gold as a king;
And myrrh as to a dying man they bring.
Instead of incense (Blessed Lord) if we
Can send a sigh or fervent prayer to thee,
Instead of myrrh if we can but provide
Tears that from penitential eyes do slide,
And though we have no gold; if for our part
We can present thee with a broken heart
Thou wilt accept: and say those Eastern kings
Did not present thee with more precious
things.**

~Nathaniel Wanley, 1634 - 1680





Saturday, January 6

4:00pm Eugene Pera

Requested by Wife, Wanda, Children & Grandchildren

Sunday, January 7

8:00am For the People of Our Parish

10:15am John Mateja

Requested by Lee Ann & Hilary Kinckner

Monday, January 8

8:00am Jack Kirkpatrick

Requested by Tom & Cindy Burke

Tuesday, January 9

8:00am Andrew Toth

Requested by Gary & Debbie Biddle

Wednesday, January 10

8:00am Linda Pera

Requested by Chester Kowalski

Thursday, January 11

8:00am Frances Riegner

Requested by Lenore, Dan & Family

Friday, January 12

8:00am Michael Plunkett

Saturday, January 13

8:00am Antoinette Hildebrand

(Anniv. Remembrance, January 3rd)

Requested by Phyllis & Anthony Tarantino & Friend, John

4:00pm Jack Guziewicz

Requested by The Puzio & Smith Families

Sunday, January 14

8:00am For the People of Our Parish

**10:15am Catharine (Kit) Armstrong
Birthday Remembrance**

Requested by Spike & Joan DeStefano



Let Us Serve The Lord With Gladness!

The following Ministers are scheduled for our Parish Masses.

Saturday evening, January 13:

4:00pm

Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion:

Joan Koeck

Lector: Walt Fromm, Jr.

Sunday morning, January 14:

8:00am

Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion:

Larry Kilian

Lector: Eileen Bralski

10:15am

Lector: Danielle Cantando

Celebrant's Mass Schedule

Saturday evening, January 13:

4:00pm - Father DiMaria

Sunday morning, January 14:

8:00am - Father DiMaria

10:15am - Father Shea



Weekly Report

November 18 - 19, 2023

\$4,865.00

November 25 - 26, 2023

\$5,292.00

December 2 - 3, 2023

\$5,916.00

December 9 -10, 2023

\$5,804.50

December 16 - 17, 2023

\$5,982.00

December 23 - 24, 2023

\$7,516.00

Thank you for your support of Our Parish!

*This week the Sanctuary Lamp in
the Church burns in loving
memory of*



Eugene Pera

*Requested by His Wife, Wanda
and Children & Grandchildren*



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



*Sacred Heart Parish sincerely thanks the Holy
Family Council #3327 of the Knights of
Columbus for the \$5,000.00 donation to
our parish. We are grateful for their
great generosity.*



**ETERNAL REST,
GRANT UNTO THEM O LORD!**

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

Dorothy Glinski

*Who was called from this life on
December 25, 2023*

Gloria Jean Mastrocola

*Who was called from this life on
December 28, 2023*

*"May Their souls and all the souls of the
faithful departed Rest in peace."*



SAVE THE DATE

**SUNDAY,
FEBRUARY 18**

**More details to
follow!**



**Wednesday, January 10
6:00 PM
Parish Hall**

Please consider to join our
CFF ministry in this New
Year to help our less fortunate neighbors. For
questions, contact Lisa Pagnotti at 610-639-
7704.



**Friday, January 12th
Doors open 6:00 PM
Games at 7:00 PM
Parish Hall**

Sponsored by The Knights of Columbus



Mary Boyle
Rosemary Giovinco
Fran Toth
Jane Puzio Sharma
Joan Birely
Evelyn Horning
Martha Smoczylo
David Boyd
Kelly Benedict
Patricia Gaffney
Andrew Andreyko
Angela Desmond
Fred Zugay
Mike Piskai
Eileen Brandt
Denise Kavanagh
Tom Kavanagh
Michael Martin
Theresa Seiders
Kerry Link
Betty Lilick
Margaret Halas

Ronald Halas
Marge Leszczynski
Dolores Burton
Fran & Rob Worrall
Rose Coscia
Jeff Simmons
Marion Raup
Joseph Saboe
Irene Elliott
Stanley Leszczynski
Ayden Boone
Butch Rodenbaugh
Nicholas Janicki
Catherine Bankowski
Michael Myers
Melissa (Myers) Sillah
George Estock
Helen Bednar
Barbara A. Burkert
John Smoczylo
Laurie Ronan





ARCHDIOCESE OF PHILADELPHIA

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OFFICE of the ARCHBISHOP

January 2024

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Fulfilling the Church's mission of mercy and the Gospel's call to be instruments of God's pure love, The Catholic Relief Services (CRS) collection funds Catholic agencies working to assist our brothers and sisters around the world who suffer from extreme hardships.

In providing humanitarian aid, resettling displaced individuals and families, and advocating on behalf of victims of atrocities like human trafficking, the organizations supported by the CRS collection serve based on the core belief that every individual is an equal heir of Christ's love and care.

The annual Catholic Relief Services collection challenges American Catholics to put their faith into action and to see "Jesus in disguise" in the faces of the poor, the marginalized, and the stranger by supporting ongoing efforts to respond to their needs. The funds collected are essential to the sustainability of vital Catholic charitable ministries that save lives and promote their sacred dignity.

The collection will be taken up in the parishes throughout our local Church during the weekend of January 13-14, 2024. We have always responded very generously to this annual collection, and I ask you to do so again this year.

I am grateful to you for recognizing the face of Christ in those who cannot help themselves and for your compassion. Please be assured of my prayers for you and your intentions. May God bless you abundantly.

Sincerely in Christ,

+Most Reverend Nelson J. Pérez, D.D.

Most Reverend Nelson J. Pérez, D.D.
Archbishop of Philadelphia

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD - JANUARY 7, 2024

Reflection by Rev. Leonard N. Peterson

This beautiful Epiphany feast always holds a unique place for me and my family, especially when the date for it was fixed on January 6, the “Twelfth Day of Christmas.” That was my beloved mom’s birthday. Added in the fact that my mother spent her early years in the Epiphany parish located in South Philadelphia.

Now that the Epiphany is celebrated on a Sunday the date is flexible. But this was a good change, because the feast was often lost to churchgoers when it fell on a weekday. The event deserves our full attention because of its significance.

What it celebrates is captured in the very word “Epiphany” itself. It means a “manifestation” or “showing.” It is the showing of Christ to the wider Gentile world beyond the world of the Jews. It implies His embrace of the same.

Up until now, we note that Christ came into the Jewish world. Both His earthly parents were good Jews, as were His grandparents and His whole extended family. St. Matthew, writing for Jewish converts to the faith, wanted to let them know that Christ came to embrace the whole world, and not just one nation.

So, for today, we can meditate and learn about “the wideness of God’s mercy.” His divine plan for the salvation of the world does not involve exclusions. Still, the perennial questions arise: “Who or what is at the center of our lives? Is it really Christ Jesus or not?”

Here is a selection from the texts for today’s feast found at St. Paul’s Episcopal Cathedral in London:

The Magi

It might have been just someone else’s story;
Some chosen people get a special king,
We leave them to their own peculiar glory,
We don’t belong, it doesn’t mean a thing.
But when these three arrive they bring us with them,
Gentiles like us, their wisdom might be ours;
A steady step that finds an inner rhythm,
A pilgrim’s eye that sees beyond the stars.
They did not know his name but still they sought him
They came from elsewhere but still they found;
In palaces they found those who sold and bought him,
But in the filthy stable, hallowed ground.
Their courage gives our questing hearts a voice
To seek, to find, to worship, to rejoice.

