

Sacred Heart Parish

120 Jefferson Street ~ Swedesburg, Pennsylvania, 19405

(610) 275-1750



I am baptizing you with water,
but one mightier than I is coming.

Luke 3:16

© JPPC

Rev. Peter J. DiMaria

Pastor

frdimaria@shswedesburg.org

Rev. Thomas A. Nasta

Pastor Emeritus

Linda Moser

Coordinator of Religious Education

lmoser@shswedesburg.org

FOCUS Missionaries:

Caitlyn Sechuk

csechuk@shswedesburg.org

Thomas Horlander

thorlander@shswedesburg.org

Holy Mass:

Saturday: Anticipated Mass 4:00 pm

Sunday: 8:00 am & 10:15 am

Monday through Friday 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

Leo Brady

Sacristan

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



DECEMBER 15, 2024

SACRED HEART PARISH
120 JEFFERSON ST. BRIDGEPORT, PA.

come let us adore him

YOUNG ADULT HOLY HOUR
EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION,
CONFESSION, & MUSIC
DRINKS TO FOLLOW

Join us this Wednesday,
December 18

CONTACT KENNEDY BUCKO W/ ANY QUESTIONS KENNEDYBUCKO@GMAIL.COM



Sacrament of Confession Schedule:

Thursday, December 19th
6:30pm to 7:30pm

Saturday, December 21st
2:30pm to 3:30pm

Monday, December 23rd
6:30pm to 7:30pm

Oplatki
(Unleavened wafers)
are now available at
the rectory.
A donation will be
gratefully accepted.

Oplatki
Christmas
Wafers

Suddenly Seniors

Our Christmas Luncheon will be held this Thursday, December 19th at 12:00 at the Swedesburg Fire House on Jefferson St. Lindinger's is the caterer and music is being provided by Sal and Charlotte DiNenna.

Tickets are available after all Masses this weekend, December 14 & 15.

Members are \$15. and Non-Members are \$20. Cash or checks made payable to Sacred Heart Church will be accepted.

Deadline to purchase tickets is Sunday, Dec. 15. Questions, call June at 610-247-4398.

Join us for an afternoon of fun and fellowship!



Christmas Eve Masses, December 24th

4:00pm & 8:30pm

Christmas Day Masses, December 25th

10:15am



We collected 110 boxes of breakfast cereal for our December collection which has been given to Martha's Choice Market in Norristown. Martha's Choice Market is the largest food pantry in Montgomery County and is operated by Catholic Charities. Thanks to all our parishioners who help support this charitable endeavor.

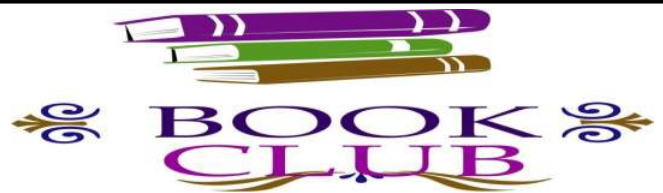


We collected \$440.00 in the Poor Box during the month of November. This money has been sent to St. Francis Inn Ministries in Philadelphia to assist with their work on behalf of the homeless.



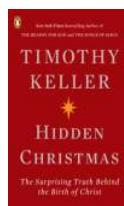
Monday Night Rosary will be recited in church each Monday at 7 p.m.

Pro Life Holy Hour at 12:00 noon each Wednesday in church.



The next book club meeting will be on **Tuesday, December 17th at 1:30pm.**

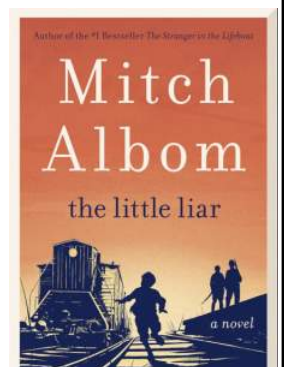
The book for December is Hidden Christmas:



The Surprising Truth Behind the Birth of Christ by Timothy Keller - a profoundly moving and intellectually provocative examination of the nativity story.

The book for **January & February** will be The Little Liar by Mitch Albom - an unforgettable story of truth and lies set during the Holocaust. We will read 1/2 the book for the January 21st meeting and the remainder for the February 18th meeting.

New members are always welcome to join.



Volunteers are needed to help decorate the church for Christmas immediately following the 10:15 Mass next Sunday, December 22nd. Many hands make light work! Please join us.

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, December 14

4:00pm Sophie Pruskowski

Remembrance

Requested by Margie & Ted Pruskowski

Sunday, December 15

8:00am For the People of Our Parish

10:15am Stanley & Mary Wlazelek

Requested by Wanda & Family

Monday, December 16

8:00am Anna Mae Daloisio

Requested by Franny Gentile

Tuesday, December 17

8:00am John & Elizabeth Evan

Anniversary Remembrance

Requested by Eleanor & Junior

Wednesday, December 18

8:00am Jack Guziewicz

Requested by Mary Conway & Al Cowling

Thursday, December 19

8:00am Walter Zadroga

Requested by Son, Thomas

Friday, December 20

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

Requested by The IHM Sisters of Sacred Heart

Saturday, December 21

NB: No 8:00am Mass on Saturdays

4:00pm For the People of Our Parish

Sunday, December 22

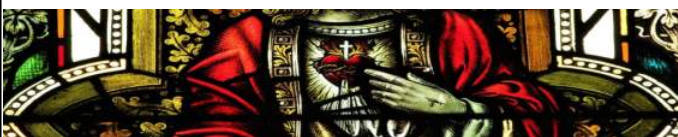
8:00am William Simmons

Requested by The Shannon Family

10:15am Aimee Fromm

Anniversary Remembrance

Requested by Mom & Dad



Let Us Serve The Lord With Gladness!

The following Ministers are scheduled for our Parish Masses.

Saturday evening, December 21:

4:00pm

Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion:

Andy Moletzsky

Lector: Walt Fromm, Jr.

Sunday morning, December 22:

8:00am

Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion:

Joan Koeck

Lector: Eileen Bralski

10:15am

Lector: Danielle Cantando



Weekly Report

December 7 – December 8, 2024

\$7,753.00

Thank you for your support of Our Parish!

THE Joy CANDLE

Also known as the Shepherds' Candle, this third candle of Advent signifies the joy of our coming Savior.

And Mary said: "My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord; my spirit rejoices in God my savior."

—Luke 1:46-47





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



Edward & Agnes Luther

*at the Request of Their Daughter,
Nancy & Lou Pitonyak*



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

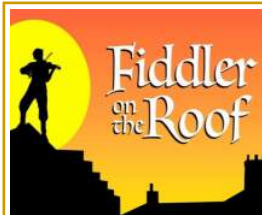
John F. K. Benedict (Major, USAF ANG), son of Christine & Vince Benedict; **Anthony C. Brandt** (CW3 Warrant Officer, U.S. Army Reserves), son of Eileen Brandt; **Zachary T. Brandt** (Sergeant U.S. Army), grandson of Eileen Brandt; **Matthew J. Capaldo** (Commander, U.S. Navy) son of John & Connie Capaldo; **Michael DeStefano, Jr.** (Sergeant U.S. Army) grandson of Jack & Sue DeStefano; **Michael Gutkowski** (Lieutenant Commander, U.S. Navy), grandson of Pat Gutkowski; **Samuel Hoey** (LCpl, U.S.M.C), grandson of Leona Cottone; **Noel Irizarry** (Specialist, U.S. Army), son of Patricia Epright; **Shane Jones** (Sergeant U.S. Marines), grandson of Fran Toth; **Matthew McNulty** (Chief Warrant Officer 4 U.S.M.C.), son of Irene McNulty; **Rick McVoy** (Lieutenant Commander, U.S. Navy) son of Rich McVoy; **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; **Stephanie Zugay** (National Guard), granddaughter of Greg & Grace Zugay.

Welcome!
NEW Parishioners

We extend a warm welcome to

Ryan & Rene Bucci

who recently registered in our Parish!



**DINNER THEATER
BUS TRIP
LANCASTER**

**WHEN: Tuesday,
April 15, 2025**

WHERE: Dutch Apple Dinner Theater

SHOW: **Fiddler on the Roof**

COST: \$119.41 Per Person
(due upon making reservation)

TIME: **Departs 9:30 AM Sacred Heart
Church parking lot promptly
Returns 4 PM (buffet lunch 11:30, show 1PM)**

Checks payable to: Sacred Heart Church

Any questions, contact June at 610-247-4398



Piper Kaplan
Michael J. Estock
Francis Rodenbaugh III
Karen Braithwaite
Carol Katkowski
Chester Kowalski
Elaine Fertal
Barbara Pruskowski
George Minnis
Al Cowling
Mary (Puzio) Stephenson
Mary Boyle
Fran Toth
Joan Birely
Martha Smoczylo
Kelly Benedict
Patricia Gaffney
Andrew Andreyko
Angela Desmond
Fred Zugay
Mike Piskai
Eileen Brandt

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



Eucharistic Miracles

In order to dispel doubts, God has provided many instances throughout Church history where the consecrated bread and wine have become human flesh and blood. These events are called Eucharistic miracles and more than 150 such cases have been approved by the Vatican! Learn about some of these wondrous occurrences at the next Patricians discussion!

**Wednesday, December 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**

**Parking available in the Ford Street lot,
adjacent to the rectory & hall.
(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 call
610-256-7125

*The society of the Patricians is an informal group of
adult Catholics who meet monthly under the direction of
Fr. Sam Keyes 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.*



Catholic School Scholarship Opportunity Grades 1 through College/University

Holy Family Council #3327 the
Knights of Columbus, is offering scholarships
valued up to \$3,000 each, for the 2025/2026
academic year to worthy students/families in
need of financial assistance. These students
must be members of the Bridgeport area
Catholic parishes and plan to attend or
re-enroll in Catholic Schools (grades 1-12) or
to a Catholic college/university.

Please visit the parish office during business
hours to get an application package. Complet-
ed applications must be dropped off at your
parish rectory by Wednesday, January 8, 2025.

What does it mean to imitate Jesus? His mission was to redeem souls. He did so by His willingness to sacrifice, to suffer, to spread the Good News. Our mission is to participate with Jesus in the redemption of souls. To imitate Jesus means to sacrifice. Unite your sacrifices with the sacrifices of Jesus, especially small daily sacrifices of Jesus, especially small daily sacrifices like not finishing a cup of coffee or not finishing the last bite of dessert to hold your tongue instead of speaking ill of others. We all have suffering. Do not complain about or waste your sufferings. Unite them with the suffering of Jesus for the honor and glory of God and salvation of souls. To imitate Jesus means to cheerfully spread the Good News whenever we are able, whether opportunities to speak about Jesus fall in our lap or when we go out of our way to create opportunities to speak about Him. Make an effort to lift everyone's spirits. Do not be a downer.



THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT - December 15, 2024

Reflection by Rev. Leonard N. Peterson



You might hear it in a sales pitch for buying into solar panels. Or in a conversation about a new diet plan. Or an over-the-fence conversation about a new landscaper. It's the question "What should you do now? Call an 800 number? Tap your text icon? Whatever you do, do it now before it's too late!"

The avid fans of the Baptist felt the pressure to act. John had preached so well and wisely. His topic was exhilarating and his enthusiasm catching. He charged people to reform and be ready to greet the longed-for Messiah because he is coming! In their excitement, people mistakenly thought that maybe John himself was "the One."

John knew that nonsense had to stop. It is a tribute to John's humility that he did it as fast as he could. "No, I am not him. More than that, I'm not even worthy to untie the man's sandal straps." He never let on that he had Jesus' special favor as a cousin. Later, we know that Jesus would pay John quite the compliment.

Today's Scriptures together speak of joy as the perfect reaction to the good news of the Savior's arrival. Of course, the way of His coming was not expected. There was no mounting of a stallion or a large assembly of troops. Certainly, no triumphant banners fluttering in the breeze.

Instead, He would be gently humble and strongly self-assured, bringing with Him a baptism with "the Holy Spirit and fire." He would separate the wheat from the chaff and burn away the latter with a catching fire.

Such descriptions left the people confused and not a little disappointed, considering what the long wait did to change the concept of Messiah into a military hero. What John was saying was startling. But it was also compelling. But they didn't flee the scene because John had an inherent magnetism. What he had to say was altogether new. It challenged their preconceptions of the Messiah. John spoke of an interior renewal that would lead one away from sinful ways.

There was also a resounding note of joy in John's message. Sharp contrast to their disillusion because of the long wait for relief from oppression. So many years they and their children had asked: "Where is God?"

To be frank, we've often asked ourselves that question. The devil seems to be in control of our world too. Aren't fellow Christians being persecuted in parts of our world? Aren't the jabs of sarcasm still aiming our way as they were for the early Christians reasons to doubt our faith? Isn't the relentless push to justify abortion on demand and the unchallenged indulgence in pornography simply evil with another name?

Those are just two reasons why we must turn to the gospel message of joy that comes with the approach of Christmas. It is the rebirth of hope. It is the powerful antidote to pessimism. It is the call to childlike trust because it's all about the birth of a holy Child. We can enjoy a rosy outlook (like the color of the vestments today) because we have the best Truth to believe in.

God love you and give you His peace.

Keith J. Murphy
Supervisor
Funeral Director



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We are Catholic men (sons, fathers, husbands, and grandfathers) living by principles inspired by faith, each on life's greatest adventure to discover the man God calls us to be. Will you join us?



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Donald E. Moore - Supervisor

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*This offer is for pre-need only and ends December 31, 2024 and cannot be combined with any other offers.

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