

Sacred Heart Parish

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



Blessed is the fruit
of your womb

© 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 22, 2024
FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Christmas Confession and Mass Schedule

Sacrament of Confession Schedule:

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

Christmas Mass Schedule:

Christmas Eve Masses, December 24th

4:00pm & 8:30pm

Christmas Day Mass, December 25th

10:15am

The Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God:

(New Year's), December 31st

4:00pm

New Years' Day, January 1, 2025

10:15am



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



Aimee Fromm

at the Request of Mom & Dad

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



Francis, Rose & Mary Beth Coscia

at the Request of Sal & Casey



Companions in Prayer and Ministry will meet on Sunday, January 5th after the 10:15 Mass in the Rectory Meeting Room.

Please consider joining our Companions Group on the first Sunday of the month after the 10:15 Mass. All are welcome!

Sister Francis Helen



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.

All are welcome!

The Parish Office will be closed Tuesday, December 24 & Wednesday, December 25.



Merry Christmas!

The great Bishop Sheen use to tell the following story:

There was once a man who loved peacocks immensely. He spent his savings feeding peacocks. Watching them eat, spread their feathers and strut around was his greatest delight. One day, he decided to go near them. He was convinced that they would come to him since he had spent a lot of money to feed them every day. Whenever he tried to approach them, however, they flew away.

He was puzzled. He thought: “Why didn’t they respond to my love?” Deeply disappointed, he stood by the roadside thinking of the sad incident. A man who was walking by stopped and asked him why he looked so sad. The man explained the reason for his sadness. Then the passer-by replied: “It is true that you love those peacocks, but they do not know that you love them. They could only understand if you were also a peacock.” The man ruefully realized that it was impossible for him to become one of them.

Explaining this tale, Bishop Fulton Sheen once said: “Man cannot become a peacock, but God can become man.” He transforms Himself into that which He loves. Christmas is all about God residing with mankind. In other words, Love became man.

Such is the love of Christ that not even one soul should be lost. We tend to show love towards those who love us, but on the other hand, the love of God knows no partiality. He loves all His creatures: the good and wicked alike. Please take the time to intently look at the Christ child in the Nativity creche and ask the Divine Child to stoke the embers of love deep within you. The pure untainted love of the Child in the manger is transformative.

May the love of God Incarnate embrace and renew you.

Merry Christmas, my dear parishioners!

Father DiMaria



MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, December 21

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

Monday, December 23

8:00am Gabriella Ashley Bruno

Birthday Remembrance, December 28

Requested by Mom, Dad & Family

Tuesday, December 24

4:00pm Francis, Rose & Mary Beth Coscia

Requested by Sal & Casey

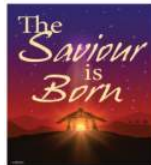
8:30pm Mary Ann, Frank & Sarah Barainyak

Requested by The Bobok, Samiec & Barainyak Families

Wednesday, December 25

10:15am Robert Murphy

Requested by Wife, Pat



Thursday, December 26

8:00am Jack Grabowski

Requested by Wife, Eleanor

Friday, December 27

8:00am Arnold Bores

Birthday Remembrance

Requested by The Bores & Stalker Families

Saturday, December 28

NB: No 8:00am Mass on Saturdays

4:00pm Adele & Ronald DelMauro

Requested by Margaret & Ronald Halas

Sunday, December 29

8:00am For the People of Our Parish

10:15am John & Eleanor Toth

Requested by Lee Ann, Shelly & Their Families



Let Us Serve The Lord With Gladness!

The following Ministers are scheduled for our Parish Masses.

Christmas Eve Masses, December 24:

4:00pm

Lector: Sal DiNenna

8:30pm

Lector: Tony Viggiano

Christmas Day Mass, December 25:

10:15am

Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion:

Valencia Zaremba

Lector: Daniel Fahy, Jr.

Saturday evening, December 28:

4:00pm

Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion:

Marjorie Pruskowski

Lector: Michelle Efthimiadou

Sunday morning, December 29:

8:00am

Lector: Connie Capaldo

10:15am

Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion:

Larry Kilian

Lector: John Keidel



Weekly Report

Due to an early bulletin deadline, financial Information will appear in next weekend's bulletin.

Thank you for your support of Our Parish!



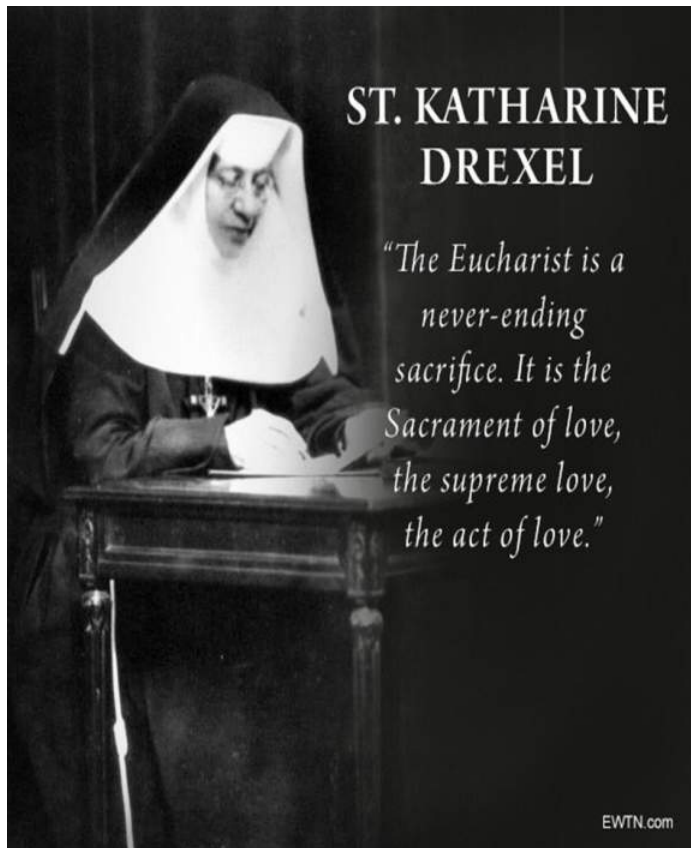


In Loving Memory

We are grateful for
donations received in Memory
of

Susan (Sue) Dayoc

On behalf of:
Friends at USM/EFS
&
Dr. John J. Zaro



*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.



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

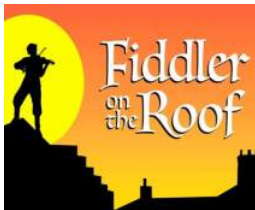
Denise Kavanagh
Tom Kavanagh
Michael Martin
Ronald Halas
Marge Leszczynski
Dolores Burton
Fran & Rob Worrall
Marion Raup
Joseph Saboe
Irene Elliott
Stanley Leszczynski
Ayden Boone
Butch Rodenbaugh
Nicholas Janicki
Michael Myers
Melissa (Myers) Sillah
George Estock
Helen Bednar
Barbara A. Burkert
John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



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. Completed applications must be dropped off at your parish rectory by Wednesday, January 8, 2025.

Love in the present moment. When you love God with your whole heart and your neighbor as yourself, you are putting on the armor of holiness. Today, the battle is not between right and wrong according to individual consciences, but between good and evil. You do not see the little flaws of love in your hearts but they are important. To God, every effort you make towards eliminating these flaws brings earth closer to Heaven.



DINNER THEATER BUS TRIP LANCASTER

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

WHERE: Dutch Apple Dinner Theater

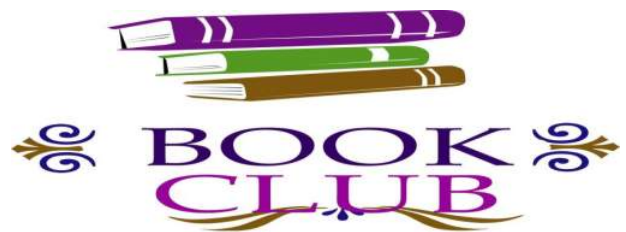
SHOW: Fiddler on the Roof

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)**

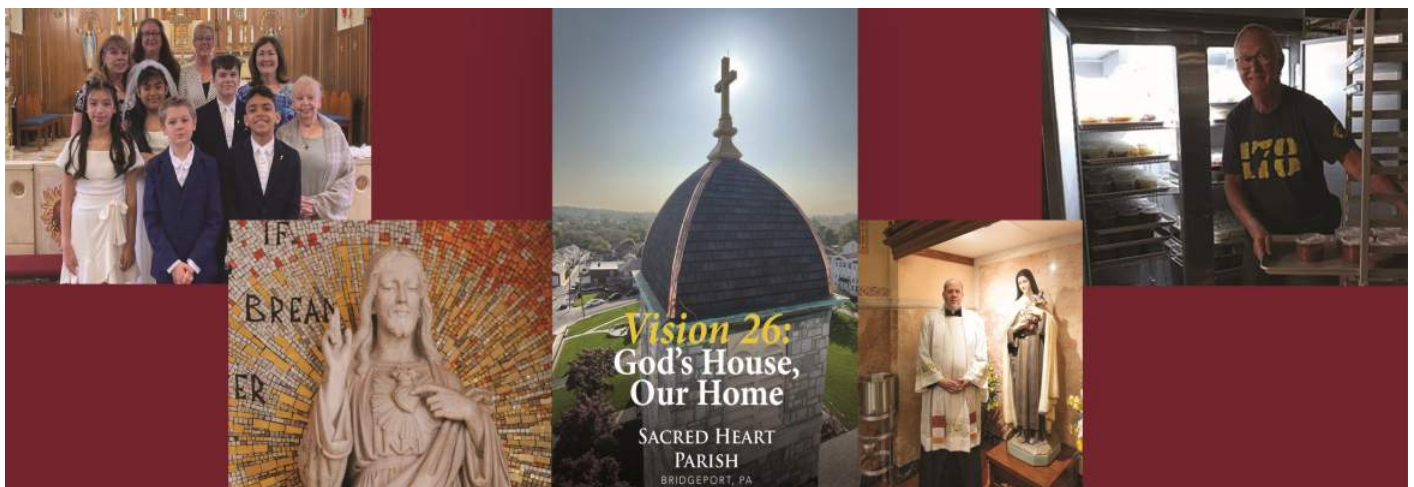
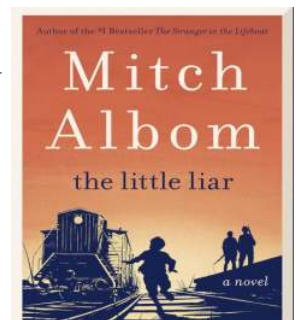
Checks payable to: Sacred Heart Church

Any questions, contact June at 610-247-4398



The next book club meeting will be on 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.***



FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT - DECEMBER 22, 2024

Reflection by Rev. Leonard N. Peterson

Christmas is all about connections. When you stop and think about it there are many. There are the personal ones, of course. And then there are the biblical ones. The latter come from God the Holy Spirit, and they complete the picture.

The personal connections, I trust, are those happy memories of past Christmases, when we were “young and foolish” as the song says. Perhaps it was our first encounter with Santa, when we walked nervously toward the smiling gentleman with our list of wants and desires lined up in memory. Usually, a photo was taken of that event, which found its way into the family album. Today’s photos likely wind up on a phone collection.

Or maybe it was that Christmas when the one toy we really wanted stayed hidden for a while until Mom or Dad prompted us to look behind the tree.

Or maybe it was the Christmas eve you proposed to the girl of your dreams and offered her a ring that sparkled almost as much as her eyes when she said “Yes!”

I must give a nod here to the strong possibility of a possibly unhappy Christmas memory because the big day came too close to the funeral of a beloved parent. That one happened to my beloved Mom when she was a little girl.

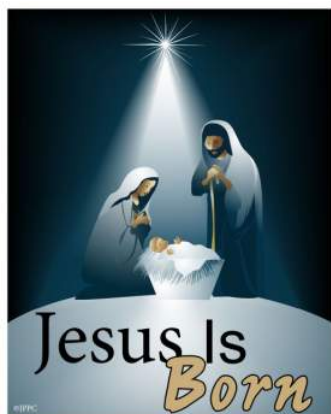
The biblical Christmas connections are those annual scenes and memorable words that come around each year, often enriched with our personal meanings. For example, there is that visitation of Mary to her cousin Elizabeth which highlights the Blessed Mother’s charity and concern. Something we have come to depend on also as our life moves on.

Underneath that obvious one is the deeper Scriptural message about the two baby boys awaiting their birth. These cousins will be connected more powerfully than usual. John the Baptist is connected spiritually with all the great prophets who preceded him in the Old Covenant times. John is the last of their kind, and he connects the New Covenant with the Old. John will also be the precursor of Jesus when both reach maturity.

Admittedly it can be a struggle at this time of year to stay focused on the spiritual. So many secular accumulations have come along over the centuries to our celebration of Christmas, either from our nationalities or those special family traditions that we must maintain our faith connection with the story. Our personal connection with Christ remains the ultimate reason for our joy at this holy time.

Perhaps the best help is one attributed to Stephen Covey. He said, “Always remember that the main thing is to keep the main thing the main thing.”

A blessed Christmas to you and yours!



Keith J. Murphy
Supervisor
Funeral Director



Serving the community since 1941
Bernard S. Gutkowski
Funeral Home
305 Jefferson Street • Swedesburg, PA 19405
610-275-6385
www.gutkowskiFuneralhome.com

Bernard S. Gutkowski
Funeral Director

Bernard S. Gutkowski, Sr.
1915-1966

Founders
Pauline H. Gutkowski
1911-2007

Walter Gutkowski
1941-2012

Family Owned and
Operated Since 1987

FREE INSPECTION
Licensed & Insured



RIGHTWAY
WATERPROOFING CO.

BASEMENT WATERPROOFING
MOLD REMEDIATION
FOUNDATION REPAIR

215-427-1727

www.RightwayWaterproofing.com



Serving Breakfast All Day!
Open 7 Days
Dine in - Take Out
26 W. 4th St., Bridgeport, PA 19405
610-489-4640
4thstreetcafebridgeport.com



2701 Renaissance Blvd., 4th Floor, King of Prussia, PA 19406

DEMETRIS
Uptown Market

Celebrating 85 Years of Business
Open 7 Days a Week
2 W. 4th St., Bridgeport, PA
610-275-3780

Edmund J. Campbell, Jr.

P: (610) 992-5885
ecampbell@campbellroccolaw.com
www.CampbellRoccoLaw.com

Gregory W. Philips
Attorney at Law

ZONING • FAMILY LAW
WILLS & ESTATES
PERSONAL INJURY
"I MAKE HOUSE CALLS"
610-323-1400

THE BURGESS WEDDINGS
at Jeffersonville BANQUETS
SHOWERS
CELEBRATION OF LIFE LUNCHEONS
BAR & RESTAURANT
OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK
2400 W. Main St. Jeffersonville, PA 19403



ANNE M. FACCHIANO PACE, DMD



Fellow: Academy of
General Dentistry
1639 Pine St.
Norristown
610-275-3990

Diocese Member
Family & Cosmetic Dentistry
Personal & Relaxing
Implant Crowns • Soft Tissue Laser
Clear Aligner Therapy for Straight Teeth

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?



HOLY FAMILY COUNCIL #3327
www.kofc3327.org



Team Fabiani 610-337-3330

ATTENTION: Archdiocese of Philadelphia Employees

Employee Benefit Program

- Family will receive up to 20% discount on product and services.
- Special Financing Available
- Free Family Estate Planning Guide • Free Will Kit

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

We hope we can help you get all your ducks in a row.

ARCHDIOCESE
OF PHILADELPHIA
844-451-9614



**American
Red Cross**

VOLUNTEER

with the American Red Cross

Join today at redcross.org/Volunteer



www.grwplumbingheatingllc.com

IN REMEMBRANCE OF
SAMANTHA JOSEPHSON
S A M I
STOP ASK MATCH INFORM
Ask #WHATMYNAME
BEFORE YOU GET IN A RIDE SHARE



Salvatore F. Bello, Jr.* | Robert J. Reilly, Jr.*
Daniel T. McGrory* | Gregory P. DiPippo* | Salvatore F. Bello, III
*Also Admitted in NJ

Personal Injury • Real Estate • Bankruptcy • Criminal Law • Domestic Law/Divorce
Estate Planning • Taxation • Workers Compensation • License Suspension/DUI
Corporate Law • Administrative & Municipal Law

144 East DeKalb Pike, Suite 300 King of Prussia, PA 19406 | (610) 992-1300 | Fax: (610) 992-1505 | www.prblaw.com

Morgan
basement waterproofing

In Our 4th Decade of Quality Service
French Drains • Foundation Repair • Mold Remediation

All Work Guaranteed

610-696-0100

www.morganbasementwaterproofing.com



JOHN PATRICK
publishing company, inc.
For Advertising
Information Contact
WYATT GROVE
Cell: 610-212-9298
wegrove@jppc.net

**Bacchi Funeral Home
& Crematory, Ltd.**

805 DeKalb Street Bridgeport, PA 19405
Phone: 610-272-1941 Fax: 610-278-6683

www.bacchifh.com

Heather M. Hughes, Supervisor
Darryl R. Bacchi

Julia K. Meyers
Francis X. Givnish



**Szpindor-Meyers
Funeral Home, P.C.**

101 North Park Avenue Trooper, PA 19403
Phone: 610-539-8010 Fax: 610-635-0284

www.meyersfh.com

James T. Meyers
Supervisor

Timothy J. Meyers
Licensed in PA and DE