

Sacred Heart Parish

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

STAY AWAKE!

For you do not know on which day your Lord will come.

MATTHEW 24:42



©IPPC

Rev. Peter J. DiMaria
Pastor
frdimaria@shswedesburg.org

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

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

Linda Moser
Coordinator of Religious Education
lmoser@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

Alexandra LaMstra
*Director of
Liturgical Music*
alamstra@shswedesburg.org

Joanne D'Alessandro
Parish Office Manager
jdalessandro@shswedesburg.org

Joe & Jeff Houseal
*Directors of Parish
& Cemetery Facilities*

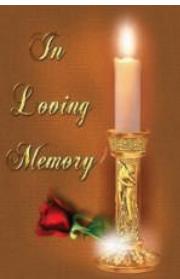
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 2022 ~ FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT



COMPANIONS IN PRAYER AND MINISTRY

Companions in Prayer and Ministry will meet next **Sunday, December 4th** after the **10:15 Mass** in the meeting room in the Convent.

Please consider joining us!



We are grateful for the following donations which have been received:

In memory of Edith Barbone

From: Angie & Maria DeLuca

In memory of Nesbur Brandt, Jr.

From: Thomas & Denise Hennessey

In memory of John "Jack" Guziewicz

From: Carol Sugalski

Mike & Lori Zadroga & Family

THANK YOU!

Sacred Heart Parish sincerely thanks the Holy Family Council #3327 of the Knights of Columbus for the 5,000.00 donation to our parish which was presented to Father DiMaria on November 12, 2022 during the Knight's banquet. We are grateful for their great generosity.



For more information concerning the Knights of Columbus, please see their website:

www.uknight.org/?CNO=3327



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.



Eucharistic Wednesdays of Advent

The Bishops of the United States have called for a **"Eucharistic Revival"** in our country. Part of their initiative involves added opportunities for Eucharistic Adoration. Each Wednesday of Advent the Blessed Sacrament will be exposed for the adoration of the faithful. Exposition will begin at the conclusion of the 8 am Mass and continue until 7 p.m. A sign up sheet will be in the back of the church so as to assure that the Blessed Sacrament is not unattended.

Marian Society - The Marian Society will meet on Sunday, December 4th for adoration of the Blessed Sacrament following the 8:00 a.m. Mass.

Holy Name Society - The Holy Name Society will meet on Sunday, December 11th for adoration of the Blessed Sacrament following the 8 a.m. Mass.



Prayer for the Eucharistic Revival

My God, I believe, I adore, I hope and I love You! I beg pardon for those who do not believe, nor adore, nor hope, nor love You. (Three times)

Most Holy Trinity, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, I adore You profoundly. I offer You the most precious Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus Christ, present in all the tabernacles of the world in reparation for the outrages, sacrileges and indifference by which He is offended.

And, through the infinite merits of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary, I beg of You the conversion of sinners. Our Lady of Fatima, pray for us.

phillyeucharisticrevival.org

The Eucharistic miracle of La Rochelle, France, was the instantaneous cure of a boy, paralyzed and mute since the age of seven, who, when he received Holy Communion at Mass on Easter Sunday 1461, was completely healed of his paralysis and was able to speak again. The most authoritative document, which describes the miracle visually, is a painted manuscript still preserved today in the Cathedral of La Rochelle. This is just one of the many approved Eucharistic Miracles that have taken place around the world through the centuries. Blessed Carlo Acutis, who died at the age of 15 and whose Cause of Beatification is underway, compiled a photographic exhibit of over a hundred of these miracles. We invite you to view this display on **Saturday, December 3rd at St. John the Baptist Catholic Church**, 502 Ford St., Bridgeport, PA. Our Eucharistic Day will begin with a 9:00 a.m. sung Mass. From 10:00 - 2:00, there will be Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament in church while the Eucharistic Miracles display will be open to the public in the hall. The day will conclude with Benediction at 2:00 p.m. and homily by Fr. Peter DiMaria, pastor of Sacred Heart parish. Drop in for a while or spend the day! For more information: r.edel.lukens@gmail.com or 610-256-7125.

Join us for a Eucharistic Day at St. John the Baptist, Bridgeport



"Heaven and earth are full of thy glory"

Visit the exhibit by Blessed Carlo Acutis
on Eucharistic Miracles

Saturday, December 3

Schedule: Mass at 9 am, followed by Exposition
Adoration & devotions throughout the day

Reflection by Fr. Peter DiMaria (from Sacred Heart Parish) and Benediction at 2 pm

Join us for a while--or for the day--at
502 Ford Street, Bridgeport, PA 19405

For more info, contact r.edel.lukens@gmail.com or 610-256-7125



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OFFICE of the ARCHBISHOP

December 2022

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

The annual appeal for the Retirement Fund for Religious will be held in our parishes during the weekend of December 3-4, 2022. The National Religious Retirement Office (NRRO) coordinates the annual appeal on a national basis and distributes financial assistance for retirement needs to eligible religious institutes within the United States.

As Pope Francis stated in his *General Audience of June 15, 2022*, "It is precisely the Christian community that must take care of the elderly; the elderly have much to give us: there is the wisdom of life. They have much to teach us. When we are old, we cannot do the same things we did when we were young..." The care for our elder men and women religious is our responsibility. They have sacrificed greatly in their years of service and remain faithful. In retirement, they remain witnesses for the Church and the world and are valuable examples of a Christian life lived well.

As you consider this year's appeal, I ask you to reflect on the role of religious in your own life. Perhaps a woman or man religious nurtured your faith as a young student or your vocation to the priesthood or to sacramental marriage. Or you may have witnessed the dedication of religious serving in Catholic schools, hospitals, parishes, or social services. Many of these women and men religious are now elderly, and too often their religious congregations do not have adequate funding for their care.

The appeal is to give what you can. Most importantly, is that we join together in prayer for God's continued blessing on our nation's elderly sisters, brothers and religious order priests.

Please support our consecrated religious in this national collection scheduled for December 3-4, 2022 in our local parishes and be assured of a remembrance in my prayers.

Thank you.

In the peace of Christ,

+Most Reverend Nelson J. Pérez, D.D.

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



MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, November 26

4:00pm John & Mary Halas

Requested by Son, Ron & Margaret Halas

Sunday, November 27

8:00am For the People of Our Parish

10:15am Joseph & Antoinette DiMaria

Monday, November 28

8:00am James Dolga, Jr.

(Birthday Remembrance)

*Requested by Wife, Therese & Children,
Scott, Ryan & Casey*

Tuesday, November 29

8:00am Adelina & Antonio Bruno

Requested by Placida DiGenova

Wednesday, November 30

8:00am Salvatore F. Sparacino

Requested by The Butler Family

Thursday, December 1

8:00am Harry J. DeJesse

Requested by Lee Ann & Nancy

Friday, December 2

8:00am Frank Opielski

Requested by The Bubb Family

Saturday, December 3

8:00am Filomena Manzo

Requested by David & Patrice Salkowski

4:00pm For the People of Our Parish

Sunday, December 4

**8:00am For the Intentions of the Members of
the Marian Society**

Requested by Sacred Heart Marian Society

10:15am Emilie Richey

Requested by Denise Cook



Let Us Serve The Lord With Gladness!

The following Ministers are scheduled for our Parish Masses.

Saturday evening, December 3:

4:00pm

Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion:

Andy Moletzsky

Lector: Helen Surman

Sunday morning, December 4:

8:00am

Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion:

Larry Kilian

Lector: Connie Capaldo

10:15am

Lector: David Turner

Celebrant's Mass Schedule

Saturday evening, December 3:

4:00pm - Father DiMaria

Sunday morning, December 4:

8:00am - Father DiMaria

10:15am—Father Shea



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

Thank you for your support of Our Parish!



Upcoming Special Second Collection

In your generosity,
please remember

**The Weekend of
December 3—4, 2022**

Retirement Fund For Religious



St. Andrew Christmas Novena

Hail and blessed be the hour and moment in which the Son of God was born of the most pure Virgin Mary, at midnight, in Bethlehem, in the piercing cold. In that hour vouchsafe, I beseech Thee, O my God, to hear my prayer and grant my desires through the merits of Our Savior Jesus Christ, and of His blessed Mother. Amen.

It is piously believed that whoever recites the St. Andrew Christmas novena prayer fifteen times each day from the feast of St. Andrew (November 30th) until Christmas Eve will obtain the favor requested.



Church Christmas Decorating

Volunteers are needed to help decorate the Church for Christmas. We will meet at 7 p.m. on Thursday, December 22. Many hands make light work! Please join us.

CHRISTMAS CONCERTS

The musical ensemble, *Gaudeteamus*, will be presenting three Christmas concerts this year.

Sunday, November 27th at 7 PM – Our Lady of Guadalupe - Buckingham

Sunday, December 4th at 7 PM - St. Patrick's – Malvern

Sunday, December 11th at 7 PM - Epiphany of Our Lord – Plymouth Meeting

All concerts are free and open to the public. A free-will donation will be collected to benefit charities chosen by *Gaudeteamus*. For more information, please visit their website at www.letusrejoice.org.



Our Caring for Friends Ministry, in partnership with Martha's Marketplace, will be collecting \$25.00 gift certificates from Target and Walmart for distribution to families for Christmas. A family of 4 will receive \$100 in certificates. Please consider helping those less fortunate during the holidays. To make it easy you can do either of the following:

- *Purchase Gift Certificates and drop them in the collection basket
- *Venmo me @Elisa-Pagnotti and I will purchase them

We will be delivering the Gift Certificates to Martha's on December 7.

Thank you as always for your support!



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.

In Your Charity, Please Pray For Our Sick



Michael Dulaney (Brother-in-law of John Puzio, Jr.); Dolores Burton; Fran & Rob Worral (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); Cody Taylor (Nephew of Michael & Eileen Bralski); Melonie Mitchell; John Smoczylo; Teddy Swede (Brother of Gloria Swede); Laurie Ronan (Niece of Gloria Swede); Edward Keszczyk.



Sacred Heart's Giving Tree

There will be two recipients of this year's Giving Tree : Martha's Choice Market and the Missionaries of Charity.

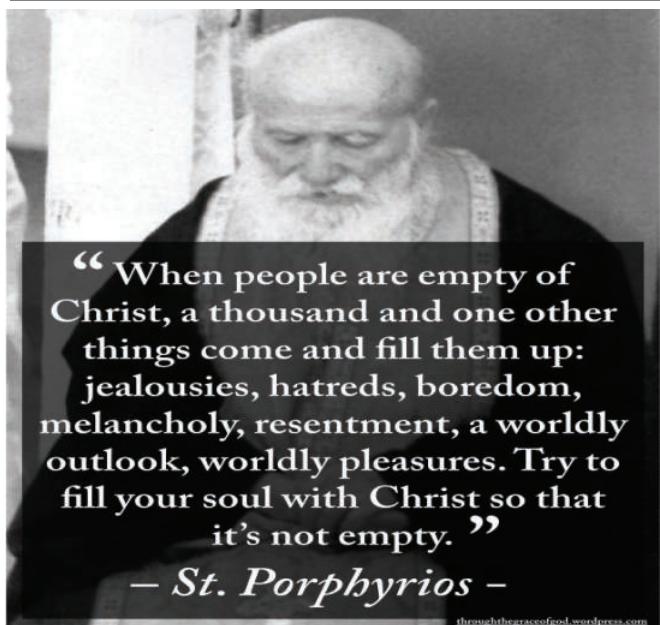
Located in Norristown and operated by Catholic Charities, Martha's Choice Marketplace is the largest, most visited food pantry in Montgomery County serving more than 1000 families and 3500 individuals each month.

Martha's Choice Market has asked for donations of \$25.00 gift cards to the following three places: Amazon, Target, and Walmart. The gift cards will be collected in a basket in front of the Blessed Mother altar.

The Missionaries of Charity, founded by St. Teresa of Calcutta, operate their soup kitchen and women's homeless shelter out of the former St. Patrick's Convent in Norristown. We will be collecting \$25.00 CVS gift cards to assist the Sisters in their work. These cards may also be placed in the basket in front of the Blessed Mother altar.

We will accept these gift cards until December 18th.

Thank you for helping make Christmas a little merrier for the needy.



“When people are empty of Christ, a thousand and one other things come and fill them up: jealousies, hatreds, boredom, melancholy, resentment, a worldly outlook, worldly pleasures. Try to fill your soul with Christ so that it’s not empty.”

– St. Porphyrios –

throughthegraceofgod.wordpress.com



Tickets for the Super Seniors Christmas Party

(December 15th at the Swedesburg Firehouse)

will be sold at the weekend Masses until December 11th. Tickets can also be purchased at the Rectory.

Please consider joining our Super Seniors. We meet on the third Thursday of each month. (55+)



Luncheon Tickets: Members—\$15.00
Non-members \$20.00

Sister MaryAnne



HOLY NAME SOCIETY CHRISTMAS DINNER SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4th

All Holy Name Society Members are welcome to join us on Sunday, December 4th at 6:00 PM at Peppers by Amedeo's Restaurant in King of Prussia.

Reservations are required by this Sunday, November 27th. Please contact Bernie Gutkowski at 484-636-8129 to make your reservation!



Catholic School Scholarship Opportunity Grades 1 through College/University

Holy Family Council #3327 the Knights of Columbus, is offering scholarships valued between \$500 & \$3,000 each for the 2023/2024 academic year to worthy students. 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 details and application materials.

Applications must be dropped off at your parish rectory by January 5, 2023.

NOVEMBER 27, 2022 - FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Reflection by Rev. Leonard N. Peterson

I tend to agree with singer Andy Williams, the unofficial secular spokesperson for this time of year as "the most wonderful." God's most surprising decision to become one of us in "all things but sin," indeed doing so as a tiny Child, remains remarkable, memorable, and more than wonderful. Sometimes I think the main reason for the season gets sadly lost. By the time the nearly month long round of hustle and bustle comes to an end, the 25th of December itself finds many of us of longing for December 26th.

Yet preparation is so necessary. Just ask the cooks of the family, and all their helpers, who readied that big Thanksgiving meal we just enjoyed a few days ago. Maybe even sidelined a bit by football.

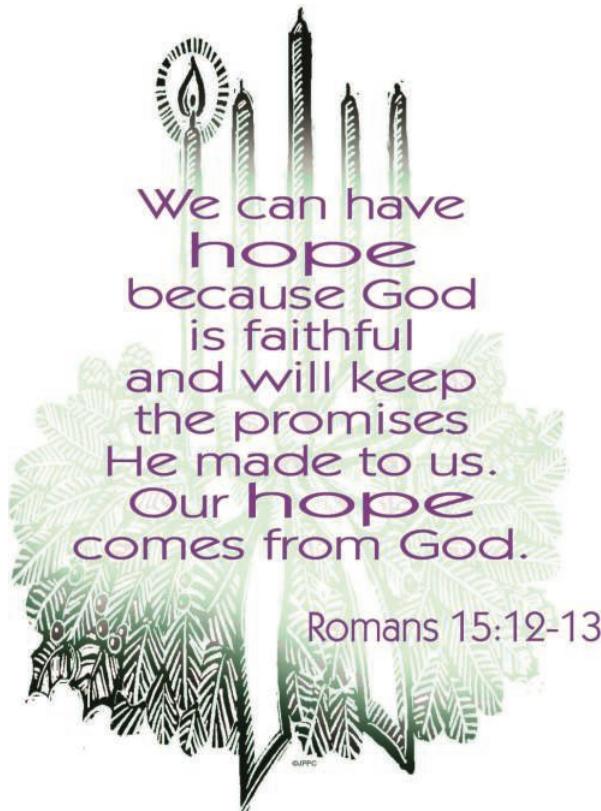
Consider also the elaborate planning for Queen Elizabeth's funeral in those waning days of Summer last September. That panoply and precision would never have happened without much planning and preparation.

So it is that whole spirit of preparation is what this little season of Advent is all about. I say "little" because Advent hardly makes a whole month. God, as it were, "sneaking into our world through the back door." Even the Church does not impose on us the penitential demands of the long six weeks of Lent. So we forget about the purple color of Lent asking for some fasting before feasting; some sacrifice before celebration.

The Scriptures today, embracing the thoughts of great Isaiah, powerful St. Paul, and Our Lord Himself, is the Church reminding us of why God came among us in the first place. We collectively had strayed so far from our Creator, and His original perfect plan for our happiness. With our petty egos left unchecked, and self-centeredness hailed as the true way to be, most of mankind by now had come to believe that this life was the only real one. Be advised: get cozy with your choices.

But God never forgets us. So the wise Mother Church we belong to urges us to work on the preparation of your mind and heart for Christmas. Some quiet Advent contemplation of what God did for us in Christ instead of some TV show. Some physical fasting. Perhaps the making of a long-delayed confession. I believe you'll find that it really is "the most wonderful time of the year" because when it comes, you'll be ready for it.

My beloved Dad once worked for the Prudential Insurance Company. One of their long-lost slogans, current during his long tenure, is so apropos here: "*The future belongs to those who prepare for it.*"



Keith J. Murphy
Supervisor
Funeral Director



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Message and data rates may apply.

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Darryl R. Bacchi

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