

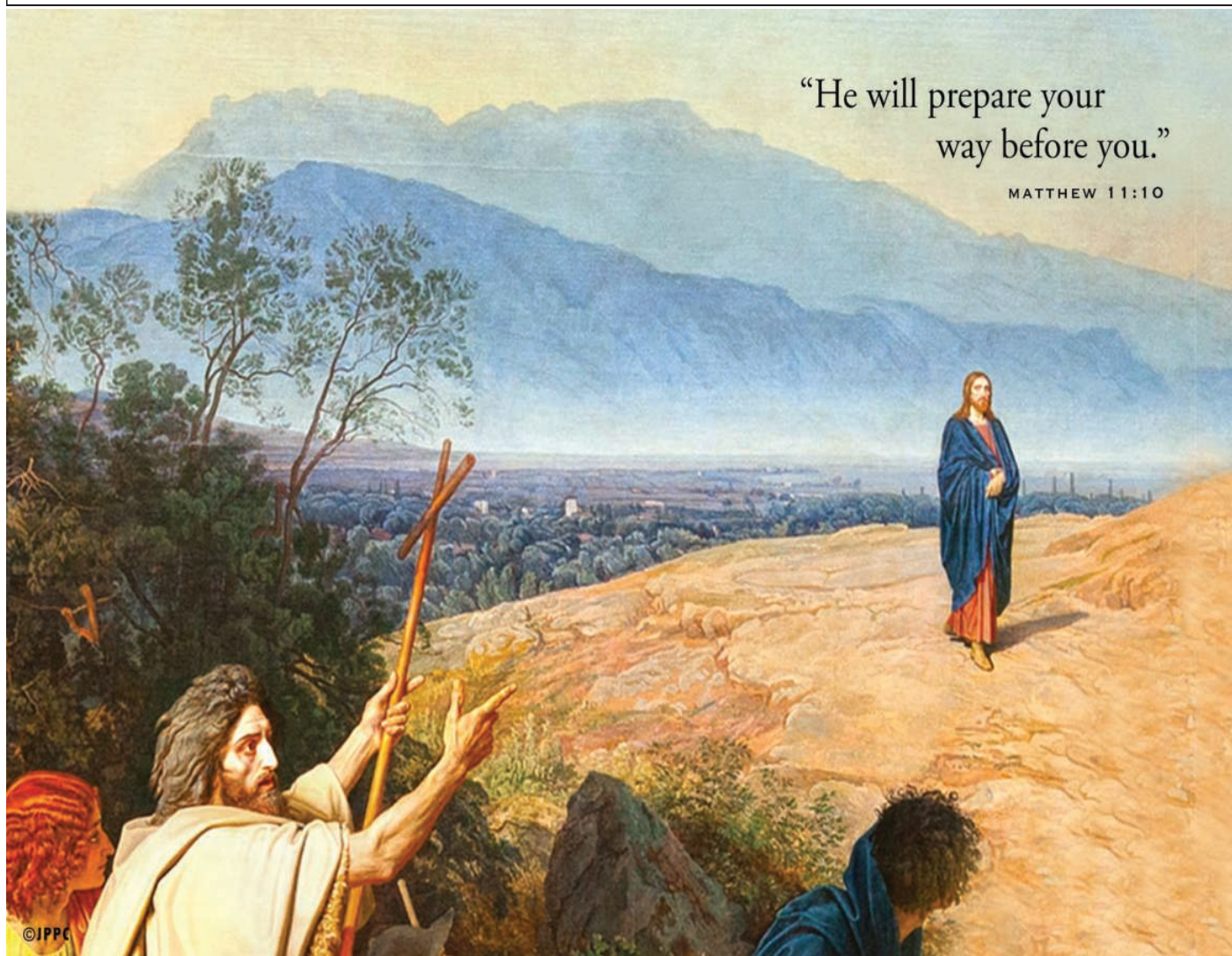
Sacred Heart Parish

120 Jefferson Street ~ Swedesburg, Pennsylvania, 19405

(610) 275-1750

“He will prepare your
way before you.”

MATTHEW 11:10



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 LaMastra

Director of

Liturgical Music

alamastra@shswedesburg.org

Joanne D'Alessandro

Parish Office Manager

jdalessandro@shswedesburg.org

Joe & Jeff Houseal

*Directors of Parish
& Cemetery Facilities*

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2022



Repent! The Lord is Near!

The holy season of Advent calls to mind the two comings of Christ: His coming as man in Bethlehem two thousand years ago and his coming again at the end of time.

His two-fold coming should guide our Advent reflection, prayer, and sacramental practice. He came in Bethlehem so as to be our Savior and He will come again at the end of time to judge the world on its acceptance or rejection of the Gospel.

On the second Sunday of Advent, we heard the voice of St. John the Baptist calling us to "Repent!" The sacrament of penance is the ordinary means by which God calls us and allows us to experience conversion of heart. In the confessional we personally experience the mercy of God and know that our sins are forgiven. Christ, through the ministry He entrusts to His priests, forgives us our sins in confession. To experience that forgiveness, however, we must use the sacrament well and prepare for it properly.

It is my hope that all the people of Sacred Heart will receive the sacrament of penance prior to Christmas. Whether you choose to confess here or at another parish, please make confession a priority for your spiritual life.

Today's bulletin contains an examination of conscience which is meant to help you prepare for confession. May the good God move you and inspire you to be reconciled to him through the sacrament of confession.



Christmas on a Sunday?

This year Christmas will be celebrated on a Sunday. This is not a common occurrence. The last time Christmas fell on a Sunday was in 2016 and after this year it will not happen again until 2033.

Christmas on a Sunday presents a unique challenge for parishes whose operational expenses rely on fifty – two Sunday collections a year. We simply need each Sunday's collection in order to fulfill our mission.

Therefore, I would kindly ask you to make two offerings on Christmas day: your regular Sunday contribution and your Christmas gift to the parish.

To that end there will be two collections on Christmas: the first collection will be for your Christmas offering and the second collection will be for your regular Sunday contribution.

Many thanks for your continual generous support of our parish.

CHRISTMAS COLLECTION

As Christmas approaches and you are occupied with all the shopping and expense that goes with it, I ask you to think seriously about your Christmas contribution to the Parish.

I ask that you not just put something in the Christmas envelope without serious thought. Perhaps you can take a moment to think of how much you will be spending on gifts, decorations and food. Then think about what percentage of that you may be giving in the Christmas collection. If you could consider your Christmas donation as a major gift on your Christmas list it will be a big help to us.

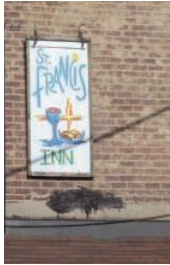
I know that everyone is rightfully concerned with the economy but please remember that if everyone gives just a few dollars less in the collection, the result is a large decrease, while if everyone gives just a few dollars more, there is the opposite result. I am grateful as always for your goodness and generosity.



Oplatki

(Unleavened wafers) is now available at the rectory.

A donation will be gratefully accepted.



November Poor Box Offering

We collected \$504.00 in our poor box during the month of November. Thank you! This month's recipient of the poor box offering is St. Francis Inn Ministries located in the Kensington section of Philadelphia.

St. Francis Inn, founded and operated by the Franciscan Friars, describes its mission in the following way:

The Inn has been serving meals to the neediest individuals and families in Philadelphia since 1979. We opened our doors in December of 1979 and have served a meal every day since then. A breakfast of hot or cold cereal or pastries is served three days a week, while we serve a sit-down meal in our dining room every day. We now serve over 350 meals a day with dignity and respect. Our meal is unique because we serve our meals restaurant-style; our guests don't walk through a line to get their food, our compassionate volunteers serve them at their tables. We rely on the generosity of local grocery stores and businesses as well as churches and individuals to donate food so we can serve our daily meals. Volunteers come daily to help cook, serve, and clean. With the help and support of volunteers and benefactors we are able to serve our guests every day with a warm, nourishing meal in a caring and respectful setting.

In addition to the dine-in meals, we also provide food baskets for families and homebound seniors monthly. A mixture of fresh and non-perishable foods supply regular sustenance to those unable to come to our meals. Mail services, phone usage, and many intangible resources also support our guests.



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.



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



Saturday, December 17th
2:30pm-3:30pm

Monday, December 19th
6:30pm – 7:30pm

Tuesday, December 20th
1:00pm to 2:00pm

Wednesday, December 21st
6:30pm to 7:30pm

Saturday, December 24th
11:00am - Noon

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, December 10

4:00pm Blanche & Ignatius Guziewicz

Requested by Jack & Family

Sunday, December 11

8:00am For the Living & Deceased Members of the Holy Name Society

Requested by Sacred Heart Holy Name Society

10:15am For the People of Our Parish

Monday, December 12

8:00am Filomena Manzo

Requested by Elisa Pagnotti

Tuesday, December 13

8:00am Marie Smith

(Anniversary Remembrance)

Requested by The Smith Family

Wednesday, December 14

8:00am William & Florence Barto

(Wedding Anniversary Remembrance)

Requested by Daughter, Elizabeth

Thursday, December 15

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

Requested by IHM Sisters of Sacred Heart

Friday, December 16

8:00am Frank Opielski

Requested by The Bubb Family

Saturday, December 17

8:00am Shawn Friel

Requested by Chris Stroh

4:00pm Jerry Kelly, Sr.

Requested by Wife, Terry & Family

Sunday, December 18

8:00am For the People of Our Parish

10:15am Stan & Mary Wlazelek

Requested by Frank & Wanda Opielski



Let Us Serve The Lord With Gladness!

The following Ministers are scheduled for our Parish Masses.

Saturday evening, December 17:

4:00pm

Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion:

Joan Koeck

Lector: Helen Surman

Sunday morning, December 18:

8:00am

Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion:

Larry Kilian

Lector: Rich McVoy

10:15am

Lector: Sal DiNenna

Celebrant's Mass Schedule

Saturday evening, December 17:

4:00pm - Father DiMaria

Sunday morning, December 18:

8:00am - Father DiMaria

10:15am—Father Shea



Weekly Report

December 3—4 , 2022

\$4,798.00

Thank you for your support of Our Parish!





Christmas Eve Masses, December 24th

4:00pm & 10:00pm

Christmas Day Masses, December 25th

8:00am & 10:15am



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.

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.



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.

HOLIDAY KOLACHKY SALE!

Kolachky will be on sale next weekend, December 17-18 before and after each liturgy in the entrance of the rectory garages.

**Nut, Poppy seed, Apricot and
Lekvar rolls**

All \$15.00

**Any questions, contact Helen Surman
610-272-4249**



In Your Charity, Please Pray For Our Sick



Marge Leszczynski; 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.



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.

Pew Missals

The 2023 edition of the Pew Missal has been placed in church. Several of the 2022 editions went missing over the course of the last year. These missals are meant for the exclusive use of the congregation while at Mass and are not meant to be taken home for private devotion. Please do not remove any missals from the church.



SUPER SENIORS

Come one - come all!!!!

A reminder that tickets will be sold for our Super Senior Christmas Luncheon until December 11th.

They can be purchased after our Masses or they can be purchased in the Rectory.

Members \$15.00 Non-Members \$20.00

Celebrating Christmas together will provide a great time to get to know one another and meet both old and new in the Swedesburg Firehouse on Jefferson St.

Luncheon is on Thursday, December 15th beginning at 12:00 - 2:00.

Hope to see you there.

**Caring for Friends Gathering –
Wednesday, December 14, 2022**

You are cordially invited to join us for our annual CFF December Gathering on December 14 at 6:00pm. Light refreshments will be served to celebrate the Christmas season.

As the colder weather is upon us homemade soup is very needed and appreciated! We will be assembling snack bags and collecting the following needed items:

- *Deodorant**
- *Liquid Body Wash**
- *Feminine Hygiene Products**

We hope you can join us for this night of food, fellowship and giving back.

As always, we appreciate your loyal support through the years.

**Sacred Heart's
Caring for Friends Ministry**



Saturday: December 17, 2022

Beginning at 12 noon

He knows if you've been bad or good.....so watch out!

Santa will once again be pulled on his sleigh around the Swedesburg and King of Prussia areas on Saturday, December 17.

Come out and see Santa on his sleigh and meet his favorite firefighter helpers.

DECEMBER 11, 2022 - THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Reflection by Rev. Leonard N. Peterson

A common plot line in theatrical works is that of mistaken identity. The piece could be a farce involving twins who switch roles. Or a serious drama involving the murder of the wrong victim. We the reader or the theater patron either laugh at the first or are shocked by the mistake in the second example.

When Our Lord walked this earth, gracing our planet in ways far beyond a simple tally of them, He had to struggle against a case of mistaken identity held by His fellow Jewish countrymen. It all involved the popular conceptions about the coming Messiah and Our Lord's take on the matter. Over time, the Jews made the Messiah out to be the superhero military leader who would rout the hated Romans. With His invincible army and his blood-stained sword, riding upon a stout steed he would assume a throne of glory and judge the nations.

There was no room here for a gentle Shepherd. Much less an itinerant preacher bred by poverty and hailing from a sleepy hamlet named Nazareth, that was far too insignificant to claim a place on any developed map. Moreover, Jesus' message proved contradictory. On the one hand, it was too startling and demanding for many among the crowds He initially attracted, especially among the Scribes and Pharisees. On the other hand, many found His message hope-filled and promising.

Jesus' precursor was His own cousin, John the Baptist, a rough desert dweller whose volatile style also attracted many followers. But the Baptist got himself jailed because he was not afraid to speak truth to power. The people grew confused when their champion directed them to Jesus. To end the confusion, John sent a delegation to ask Jesus about His credentials.

True to form, Jesus answers the group's question indirectly, challenging their powers of deduction. He pointed out healings of the afflicted that were prophesied about the Redeemer. As the group headed back to the imprisoned John with their report, Jesus raised His voice with a tribute to the Baptist any one of us would like to hear directed our way.

Advent has a penitential aspect about it, less pungent than the penance asked for in Lent, but still penitential. We recall and repent of our sins in preparation for the grand Feast of Christmas. We acknowledge that we have fallen into a state of mistaken identity, choosing all sorts of substitutes for happiness instead of the things of God. Advent urges us to take a trip to the confessional before the big day.

Meanwhile, mistaken identity can make us forget what Christmas is all about. A recent poll conducted by the Lutheran Church found that the largest percentage of Christians interviewed said that Christmas was all about families getting together. A nice response, but what happened to Christmas being about Jesus?

God love you and give you His peace.



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Supervisor
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