

Sacred Heart Parish

120 Jefferson Street ~ Swedesburg, Pennsylvania, 19405

(610) 275-1750



Rev. Peter J. DiMaria

Pastor

frdimaria@shswedesburg.org

Rev. Thomas A. Nasta

Pastor Emeritus

Rev. James A. Lyons

*Pastor Emeritus - Our Lady of Charity
Weekend Assistant*

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

Linda Moser

Coordinator of Religious Education

lmoser@shswedesburg.org

Leo Brady

Sacristan

Valerie DiFilippo

*Parish Bookkeeper/
Cemetery Manager*

vdifilippo@shswedesburg.org

Joanne D'Alessandro

Parish Office Manager

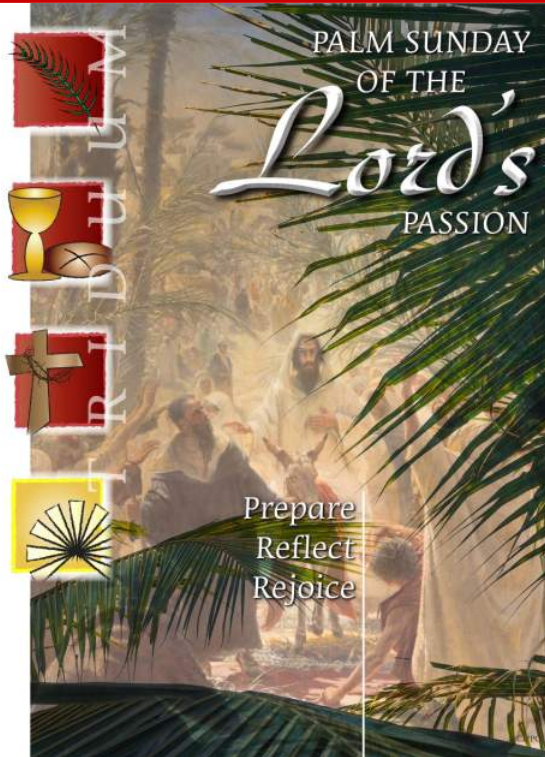
jdalessandro@shswedesburg.org

Carl Gedeik

*Director of
Liturgical Music*

Joe & Jeff Houseal

*Directors of Parish
& Cemetery Facilities*



APRIL 13, 2025

HOLY WEEK HAS BEGUN

One of the striking parts of today's Passion Narrative is the question that arises during the central part of our Lord's trial. Who is this Jesus? He entered Jerusalem with exciting shouts from a crowd of followers: "Blessed is He who comes in the Name of the Lord." He was arrested for the same reason for which He was praised: that He was the Christ.

When He was accused of being a king, He could have said that He wasn't who they said He was and the trial would have come to a crashing halt. He would have been set free because there was little else with which they could have charged Him. When asked if He were the Messiah, however, our Lord would not deny the charge. "You say that I am!" was His response to the chief priests and Pilate.

His ambiguous answer as to who He was seems to challenge us: do we just call Him our King; do we come to Him crying "hosanna" which means "save us" when we want something? Would we be hesitant to stand up for Him as our King in spite

of a noisy crowd which calls for His crucifixion? Who is this Jesus we honor today? It is faith in the resurrection that ultimately gives us the answer to this question.

As we prepare to commemorate the saving mysteries of man's redemption, it is imperative that we cleanse our consciences through the sacramental grace of confession. The Sacrament of Penance is of divine origin. How often and well do we use it?

There are extra opportunities for confession this week. Please see the bulletin for the additional times. Included, also, in this edition of the bulletin is an examination of conscience insert for your use.

May we never tire of asking the Lord for His forgiveness!

God love you!

Father DiMaria

Confessions:

Tuesday, April 15 1:00 pm - 1:30 pm
 Wednesday, April 16 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm
 Good Friday, April 18 10:00 am - 11:00 am

No confessions on Holy Saturday

Wednesday, April 16 - Eucharistic Adoration at Noon and ending with Benediction at 7:00 pm

Holy Thursday

Mass of the Lord's Supper 7:00 pm
 The Church will remain open until 11:00 pm for visits to the repository

Good Friday

Liturgy of the Lord's Passion 2:00 pm
 The Church opens at 8:00 am for visits to the repository

EASTER DECORATING

Volunteers are needed to help decorate the Church for Easter.

We will assemble in the Church at 7:00 pm on Good Friday, April 18th to decorate. Many hands make light work!



BLESSING OF EASTER FOOD

**HOLY SATURDAY, April 19 @
 1:30PM
 SACRED HEART CHURCH**





**DINNER THEATER
BUS TRIP - LANCASTER
APRIL 15th**

The bus will arrive @ 9:15 am
& leave promptly @ 9:30 am
from Sacred Heart Church parking lot.
Questions call June 610-247-4398

The “**Book Club**” will be meeting this
Thur., **April 17th** in the Rectory Meeting
Room beginning at 1:30pm.

The book for April is Sensible Shoes: A
Story about the Spiritual Journey by Sharon
Garlough Brown.



**Holy Week Mission Join Us
on Tuesday, April 15th at
Sacred Heart!**

Mission Youth Philly is coming to
Sacred Heart Parish on Tuesday, April 15th,
to bring Christ’s love to our neighbors!
We’ll be visiting homebound parishioners,
going door-to-door in the neighborhood, and
offering prayer to those we encounter.

Join us for Adoration at 8:00pm in the
church – all are welcome! Want to get in-
volved? Parishioners are invited to join the
mission for the day or support our work
through prayer and generosity.

Other Holy Week Mission Opportunities:

- **Good Friday Family Mission** in Center City
- **Living Stations of the Cross** beginning at 12:30pm at St. Pat’s Cathedral in Rittenhouse Square
- **Single-Day and 5-Day Missions** – especially for high schoolers!

Sign up to join us! Visit MissionYouthPhilly.com/holy-week-2025 for all the details!

Contact: Christina Ball at:
missionyouthphilly@gmail.com

Scan to Register:



Holy Saturday
Easter Vigil 7:00 pm

Easter Sunday
8:00 am & 10:15 am

It’s my job to be holy. It’s your job to be holy, too.
Why do you think God put us on this earth?

~ Mother Teresa



An Invitation from Archbishop Pérez

Trust and Hope

Most of us, especially those of a certain age, Have witnessed the

alarming decline over the years in Mass attendance and participation in the life of the Church. The reasons are many, but the fact is that only about 17% of Catholics attend Mass. The response to that reality by the Church in the U.S. has been to do its best to “manage the decline.” There have been essentially three approaches 1. Close parishes gradually through a planning process, 2. Close many parishes all at once (rip the band aid off). Or 3. Allocate multiple parishes to a single priest and see what happens.

Archbishop Pérez is leading an effort in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia to take a different approach - a “Fourth Way.” Thus, we as an Archdiocese are embarking on a long-term approach to reverse the decline and actually grow the church. One of the themes of this endeavor is to recognize that we are in “Apostolic Times.” That is, we are a missionary church once again.

A representative from the Archdiocese will hold an information session for parishioners of Sacred Heart Parish. The session will be held on **Tuesday, April 29th at 7:00PM** in the church. Please come and bring your questions with you. Your input is essential to the success of this important initiative.



MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, April 12

4:00pm Domenic Giovanni Dugas

Requested by Barbara JanFrancisco

Sunday, April 13

**8:00am Living & Deceased Members of the
Bakula & Moser Families**

Requested by Connie Sharp

10:15am Desiree Halas & Michele Halas Paul

Requested by Dad

Monday, April 14

8:00am Anna Mae Daloisio

1st Anniversary Remembrance

Requested by Joe & Antonette Fabrizioo

Tuesday, April 15

8:00am Barbara Fromm

Requested by John & Connie Capaldo

Wednesday, April 16

8:00am Mary Ann Brzoska

1st Anniversary Remembrance

Requested by Laureen Wisniewski

Thursday, April 17

7:00pm Mass of the Lord's Supper

Friday, April 18

2:00pm Liturgy of the Lord's Passion

Saturday, April 19

7:00pm Easter Vigil

Sunday, April 20

8:00am Mary Beth Coscia

Requested by Her Family

10:15am Laura & Steve Barainyak

Requested by Her Family



LITURGICAL MINISTRIES



Let Us Serve The Lord With Gladness!

The following Ministers are scheduled for our Parish Masses.

Holy Thursday, April 17:

7:00pm

Extraordinary Minister: Marjorie Pruskowski

Lector: Daniel Fahy, Jr.

Good Friday, April 18:

2:00pm

Extraordinary Minister: Joan Koeck

Lectors: Elisa Pagnotti & Danielle Kelso

Saturday evening, April 19:

7:00pm

Lectors: John Simmons & Chris Kilian

Sunday morning, April 20:

8:00am

Lector: Michelle Efthimiadou

10:15am

Lector: Rich McVoy



Weekly Report

April 5 - 6, 2025

\$9,247.00

Thank you for your support of Our Parish!

Blessed Holy Week
May the blessings of
The Lord be with you &
your family during this
Holy Week & always.



Holy Week



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

Anna Mae Daloisio

1st Anniversary Remembrance

at the request of Joe & Antonette Fabrizio

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



Ruth Anne Kennedy Stoll

at the request of her daughter, Kennedy

March Poor Box Collection

Thanks to your generosity we collected \$696.00 in our poor box during the month of March which we sent to the Padre Pio Prayer Center in North Philadelphia. (The former St. Joachim Parish)

In addition to offering the Sacraments to the poor within this community, the Capuchin Franciscan Friars also offer social services including food, clothing, NA meetings, prayer and witness on the streets of Kensington.



Cereal Sunday Collection

We collected 146 boxes of breakfast cereal during the weekend of April 5 and 6. Thanks for such a great response. The cereal has been given to Martha's Choice Market for distribution to the poor.

Remember, we always collect cereal boxes on the First Sunday of each month.



**Lenten Dinner ~ Good Friday, April 18th
5 PM to 8 PM
Swedesburg Fire Co Social Room
310 Jefferson Street, Swedesburg, PA**

The Parish Office will be closed on Good Friday, April 18th & Easter Monday, April 21st.



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** (Sergeant, 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; **Jack Razin** (1st Lieutenant, U.S. Air Force), son of Rich & Julie Razin; **Luke Razin** (Captain, U.S. Air Force), son of Rich & Julie Razin; **Jeffrey Seamans** (Captain, U.S. Army), son-in-law of Dolores Burton; **Stephanie Zugay** (National Guard), granddaughter of Greg & Grace Zugay.



| | |
|-------------------------|------------------------|
| Catherine Martin | Eileen Brandt |
| Patty Houseal | Denise Kavanagh |
| Joseph Puzio | Tom Kavanagh |
| Piper Kaplan | Michael Martin |
| Michael J. Estock | Ronald Halas |
| Francis Rodenbaugh III | Marge Leszczynski |
| Karen Braithwaite | Dolores Burton |
| Carol Katkowski | Fran & Rob Worrall |
| Elaine Fertal | Marion Raup |
| Barbara Pruskowski | Joseph Saboe |
| George Minnis | Irene Elliott |
| Al Cowling | Stanley Leszczynski |
| Mary (Puzio) Stephenson | Ayden Boone |
| Mary Boyle | Butch Rodenbaugh |
| Fran Toth | Nicholas Janicki |
| Joan Birely | Michael Myers |
| Martha Smoczylo | Melissa (Myers) Sillah |
| Kelly Benedict | George Estock |
| Patricia Gaffney | Barbara A. Burkert |
| Angela Desmond | John Smoczylo |
| Mike Piskai | Laurie Ronan |



ARCHDIOCESE OF PHILADELPHIA

222 North Seventeenth Street · Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103-1299
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OFFICE of the ARCHBISHOP

April 13, 2025

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

On *Good Friday*, April 18, 2025, we commemorate the Mystery of the Lord's Passion, contemplating the sacrifice by which Jesus redeemed the human race from sin and death. It also has been our long standing tradition on this day each year to offer alms in support of the Catholic Community in the Holy Land.

At the direction of Pope Francis, funds generated by Good Friday collections throughout the world support vital programs and critical services in the Holy Land. They are used to maintain the sacred places, to provide educational and pastoral programs, and to serve the needs of the poor through established charitable institutions.

On behalf of those Christians and others in so much need, I ask you to support the **Good Friday Collection for the Holy Land** generously. Given current world events, our generosity to our brothers and sisters in this portion of the world is vitally important this year. Please be assured of my prayers for you and your families.

Sincerely in Christ,

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



Giving Hope
TO ALL

Catholic Charities Appeal

By donating just \$1 a day, you will support virtually every aspect of Catholic life for enrichment and improvement. There are close to 180 organizations and ministries counting on the Catholic Charities Appeal. By donating just \$1 a day you can help a child in need, retired senior citizens, homeless individuals and families, veterans, the Church on college campuses and so much more.
www.catholiccharitiesappeal.org

Part-Time
**HELP
WANTED**

St. John the Baptist parish in Bridgeport (in the old OLMC property) is looking to hire a part-time staff member to clean portions of the rectory and other parts of the property as needed during daytime hours on weekdays. This person would also fill in occasionally when our main weekend person is unavailable. Average 5-10 hours a week, pay starting at \$18/hour. Please contact Fr. Keyes at pastor@sjbbridgeport.org or 610-455-4458.

PALM SUNDAY

APRIL 13, 2025

Reflection by Rev. Leonard N. Peterson

Each of us is drawn into the story of the Passion, particularly if the 3 parish lectors present it with clarity and realism in their voices. I believe this narrative does this like no other, because the Jesus story is ours as well. We know and believe that we are the indirect cause of Jesus' pain. It was our sins, big and little, that drove in the nails and made Him hang there on that cross of shame.

We find ourselves almost exactly 2 months from February 14. Valentine's day, when our attention was focused on warm romantic love, even as snow lay on the ground and may have canceled many a romantic dinner. The story of Our Lord's Passion drives home the facts about real love of neighbor. "Greater love than this no man has: that he lay down his life for his friend." That is the famous caption for the picture. That is what Jesus did for us even though we were and are still to a large extent: sinners.

Add to this the fact that Jesus is God, and the whole story heard on a higher level. How dare we say that God does not love us? Check out the nearest crucifix for the opposite truth.

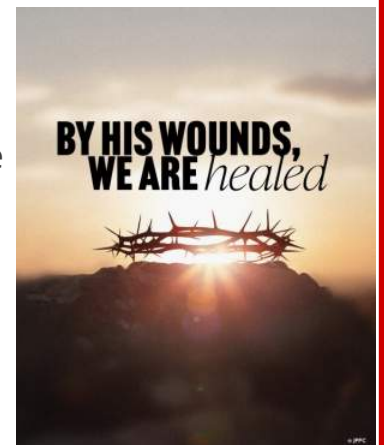
Imagine, if you will, what you would do if someone were to harm you physically. Or hurt you with malicious untrue gossip. You would certainly have righteous indignation. And perhaps a handy fist. How different is our loving God!

What we blandly call "the Passion Narrative" is really a chronicle of the worst injustice ever done by man to a Man. A man who is also God Himself. Don't be too quick to insert yourself in the adoring crowd laying down palm for Jesus on a donkey to walk over. Instead, see yourself among those who picked up the nails for the soldiers to use. The confessional is the place for reconciliation with the Man on the donkey.

How better to end these thoughts than by praying together the traditional Act of Contrition which still says it best:

"O my God, I am heartily sorry for my sins, because I dread the loss of heaven and the pains of hell. But most of all because they have offended Thee, my God, who art all good and deserving of all my love. I firmly resolve, with the help of Thy grace, to confess my sins; do penance; and avoid the near occasions of sin. Amen."

God love you, and have a meaningful Holy Week.



Keith J. Murphy
Supervisor
Funeral Director



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Deep within the heart of every man is a call to live with purpose and meaning; a call to lead, to protect, to serve and to defend. Will you join us?



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Darryl R. Bacchi

Julia K. Meyers
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Supervisor

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