

Sacred Heart Parish

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

Whoever loves me will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our dwelling with him.

John 14:23



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

Brenda Turner
Parish Office Assistant
bturner@shswedesburg.org

Carl Gedeik
Director of
Liturgical Music

Joe & Jeff Houseal
Directors of Parish
& Cemetery Facilities

MAY 25, 2025
SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

The Lord's Lovely Dwelling Place

Dear Friends in Christ,

Last week during the homily I spoke about the need to raise funds to paint the interior of our church. The campaign is known as “The Lord’s Lovely Dwelling Place.” During my presentation last week I said that I would publish more information about the reason behind the campaign. Here is the information:

1. Vision 26 Campaign was introduced in early 2024 to help raise money for the repair and renovation of the church. This “pitch” netted approximately \$35,000.00 which was used to install the new floor. Approximately one third of those funds came from one family. Thanks to the volunteer efforts of 55 people who helped remove the pews and carpeting from the church, we saved a great deal of money on the flooring project.
2. Realizing that we needed more ordinary income to operate our parish, the stewardship and finance committees approved an “increased offertory program” which we introduced last Fall as a part of the Vision 26 campaign. Because of this “increased offertory program” our Sunday offertory collection has increased by about \$1800.00 to \$2000.00 a week. This increase has been very helpful in allowing us to meet the ordinary expenses of the church’s operation which include salaries, benefits, building insurance, heat, light, water, sewer, archdiocesan assessment, landscaping, lawn maintenance, and other small projects or repairs to our property. The increased offertory program was meant to help pay for ordinary operating expenses and **not major capital projects like the church painting.**
3. In 2014 when the catholic parishes of Bridgeport were merged, Sacred Heart parish received all the assets of the combined parishes which were then invested. For the last ten years all of the capital improvement expenditures which have occurred were paid for from the funds generated by the sale of the properties as well as from the interest gained by the investments.
4. Without ever asking the parishioners for any extra funds and using the income generated by the investments, new roofs were placed on the church, bell towers, convent, annex, and bus garage. A new heating and air conditioning system was installed in the church, the majority of the stained-glass windows have been restored, and the church’s plaster ceiling conservation project which was unexpected cost a whopping \$325,000.00 – money that I had originally earmarked for the paint job. All of this work and more has been done without ever asking the parishioners to financially assist with these projects.
5. “The Lord’s Lovely Dwelling Place” Campaign is an “arm” of the Vision 26 campaign and is meant to help pay for the church painting job which will cost \$425,000.00. Six bids were obtained for the church painting job. Two of the bids were in excess of \$600,000.00 because of the need to scaffold the entire church. The contractor who has been awarded the job will not need to scaffold the church because of his telescopic lift which you may remember from last year when the plaster conservation project happened. As a result, the price for painting the church is substantially lower than the other contractors’ bids.
6. There are several more major projects which need to be done within the next few years, and we simply cannot continue to dip into our reserves to pay for these projects which include a new roof on the school, the restoration of the sanctuary stained-glass windows and the pointing of the bell towers. The school roof repair is estimated to cost \$200,000.00 and the windows \$100,000.00. We haven’t even gotten any bids for the pointing of the church building.

7. When the church was built in 1926 it cost \$64,000.00 which is the equivalent of \$1.4 million today. Surely, we as a parish community have the ability to raise \$425,000.00 over the next three years to pay for the repainting and beautification of the Lord's house?
8. This campaign affords all of us the opportunity to make a meaningful financial sacrifice to renew the Lord's House and to make some small return to the Lord for all that He has given us!

I am happy to share this information with you. I really hope that everyone can get onboard for the campaign. I am quite sure that everyone will be happy with the end result. We will have one stunningly beautiful church in which to adore and worship the Lord.

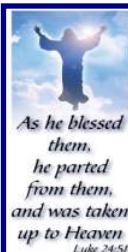
God love you!

Father DiMaria



Memorial Day Mass will be celebrated at 9:00 AM on Monday, May 26th. We will remember all those who have given their lives in the service of our country.

The parish office will be closed for the day.



The Ascension of the Lord, Thursday, May 29

Our Mass schedule for the Holy Day of Obligation is as follows:

Wednesday, May 28 4:00 PM

Thursday, May 29 8:00 AM

Thursday, May 29 7:00 PM

FEAST OF THE SACRED HEART CELEBRATION DINNER



SUNDAY JUNE 8, 2025
4:00 - 7:00 P.M.

Adults: \$50 per person
Children (under 12): \$20 per person

Ticket on sale now until June 1
after all weekend Masses
and at the Rectory during regular office hours
Spring Mill Ballroom
1210 East Hector Street Conshohocken, PA 19428
Catering by PTG Restaurant & Caterers

Hors d'oeuvres – 14 different types including: Mini crab cakes - Buffalo wings - Mini tacos - Filet mignon on toast - Poppers - Cheeses - Antipasto - Bruschetta

Main course: Ravioli with 4 cheese sauce - Penne in light pink sauce - Chicken Francaise - Shrimp and Scallops - Asparagus - Roasted Potatoes - Spring Mix salad - Desserts - Coffee and tea – Cash bar

Music by Fasano Entertainment

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, May 24

4:00pm Lorraine Strizziere

Requested by John & Connie Capaldo

Sunday, May 25

8:00am Frank Opielski, Sr.

Requested by Wanda & Family

10:15am For the Intentions of Patrick Dudas

Requested by Patrick Dudas

Monday, May 26

9:00am For All Those Who Died in the Military

Tuesday, May 27

8:00am Raymond McArdle

Requested by Ken Klicka

Wednesday, May 28

8:00am The Living & Deceased Members of the Dunleavy & Rokita Families

Requested by Danny & Debbie

4:00pm Andrew Andreyko, Sr.

Requested by Linda & Peter Korpel

Thursday, May 29

8:00am Celeste Coyle

Requested by John & Connie Capaldo

7:00pm Sue Dayoc

Requested by Liz & Andrew Oreo

Friday, May 30

8:00am For the Intentions of Father DiMaria

Requested by Frank & Dottie Hendzel

Saturday, May 31

NB: No 8:00am Mass on Saturdays

4:00pm Sue Dayoc

Requested by Lou & Nancy Pitonyak

Sunday, June 1

8:00am Evelyn Horning

Requested by Patrick Dudas

10:15am Frank, Sarah & MaryAnn Barainyak

Requested by The Family



Let Us Serve The Lord With Gladness!

The following Ministers are scheduled for our Parish Masses.

Saturday evening, May 31:

4:00pm

Celebrant: Father DiMaria

Extraordinary Minister: Pat Moletzsky

Lector: Michelle Efthimiadou

Sunday morning, June 1:

8:00am

Celebrant: Father DiMaria

Extraordinary Minister: Joan Koeck

Lector: Connie Capaldo

10:15am

Celebrant: Father Lyons

Lector: Rich McVoy



Weekly Report

May 10 - 11, 2025

\$7,714.00

Thank you for your support of Our Parish!



**POPE LEO XIV
Robert Francis Prevost**

- 267th pope of the Catholic Church
- First pope from the United States
- Born on September 14, 1955 in Chicago, IL
- Created cardinal by Pope Francis in 2023
- Promoted to rank of cardinal bishop in February 2025
- Former prefect of Dicastery of Bishops
- Former bishop of Chiclayo in Peru
- Former Prior General of Augustinians



Mass locations during the church painting process

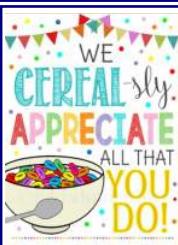
1. While the church is being painted, the Saturday 4 p.m. and Sunday 8 a.m. and 10:15 a.m. Masses will take place each week **in our church**.
2. During the week and until the painting project is completed, the 8 a.m. daily Mass will be celebrated in the following places:
 - a. From June 16th to June 20th the 8 am Mass will take place at St. John the Baptist Church on Ford Street (former O.L. Mt. Carmel) so that the children's religious education program can be held in our school hall.
 - b. Beginning on June 23rd, through July and into August the daily Mass will be held in the school hall.
 - c. Because of the needs of the tenants who lease our school building , we will return to St. John the Baptist church for daily Mass in Mid-August until the church project is completed sometime in late September.
3. Should the need arise, all funeral Masses from June 16th onward will be held in St. John Baptist Church until the church painting is finished.

Thank you for your understanding and patience!



Poor Box Offerings

We collected \$504.00 in the poor box during the month of April. The funds have been sent to the Missionaries of Charity in Norristown to assist with their work in feeding the hungry and giving shelter to the homeless. May God bless you for your generosity to the poor.



Cereal Sunday Success! During May's "Cereal Sunday" we collected 192 boxes of breakfast cereal. The donations were given to Martha's Choice Market, a food pantry operated by Catholic Charities. Thanks for your generous response.



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.



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

SACRED HEART PARISH
120 JEFFERSON ST. BRIDGEPORT, PA



YOUNG ADULT HOLY HOUR

Eucharistic Adoration, Confession,
& Traditional Music

Drinks to Follow

Wednesday, May 28

7 PM - 8 PM

ETERNAL REST, GRANT UNTO THEM O LORD!

*In your kindness,
please pray for the happy repose of the soul of*

Zofia Bialoboki

*Who was called from this life on
May 13, 2025*

*"May Her soul and all the souls of the
faithful departed Rest in peace."*



**Companions in Prayer and
Ministry** will meet on Sunday,
June 1st 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.

Sister Francis Helen

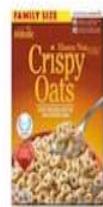
CEREAL SUNDAY

DONATIONS FOR
MARTHA'S CHOICE MARKETPLACE



BRING YOUR CEREAL
DONATIONS ON THE

1ST WEEKEND
OF EACH MONTH



LEAVE THEM IN THE
BACK OF CHURCH

GENERIC CEREAL IS GREAT!

SUDDENLY SENIORS BUS TRIP

*Jim Thorpe in the Poconos
Thursday, October 30th, 2025
8:30 am to 5:00 pm*

- Departs from Sacred Heart Church parking lot
- \$85.00 payment due upon reservation. No refunds. Includes driver's gratuity. Make checks payable to: Sacred Heart Church

Highlights:

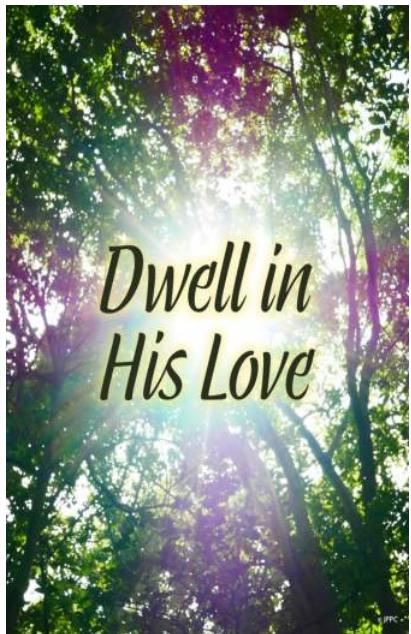
10:30 (70 min)

- Trolley tour of beautiful, historic town set in a valley
- Majestic foliage
- Jim Thorpe Memorial State Park (pretty)
- Broadway to Mauck Chunk Lake Park
- Live narrated tour in a fun, not dry, way

Lunch on your own.

- A reservation at the Broadway Grille across from trolley station will be made for our group.

Contact: June junedidesi@gmail.com



MAY 25, 2025 - SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Reflection by Rev. Leonard N. Peterson

Parents of toddlers as well as Grandparents, Uncles and Aunts already know what research reveals. Toddlers around 2 to 3 years old will at that age start asking questions like "What is that?" or "Dat?" This happens as the little ones develop a greater understanding of language and express their curiosity. It's essentially all about beginners needing help.

At the whole enterprise of being a Church, St. Paul and Barnabas were also beginners. As their mission caught on, all kinds of questions arose that needed answers. How to apply Christ's teachings to new situations was their challenge. Of course, they did have the confidence of knowing they had the guidance of the Holy Spirit because that was what Jesus promised them.

Today the First Reading tells us that St. Paul in Antioch faced the problem of certain people claiming that any new male convert to the Faith had first to be circumcised before Baptism. In response, the Church of Jerusalem had its first Council and decided that the idea was wrong. What remained necessary, as recorded in Acts 15, was for converts to "abstain from items associated with idols and to refrain from unchastity."

This topic brings to the fore the matter of respectful questioning of the Church's teaching these days on any given subject. When I call it "respectful" I have in mind the healthy exploration of an inquiring mind. Not at all that of a hostile attitude about the matter at hand.

Certainly, divine teaching has a distinct place. To question that would be tantamount to blasphemy. This implies that the person's understanding of the teaching is correct. Only confusion ensues without that.

The more common questioning springs from Church teaching. Frequently this involves teaching on moral issues. Again, we can narrow that category down to issues of sexual behavior.

This issue centers around the teaching of what God wants us to do with our bodies. Here a questioner can always begin by researching the Scriptures, especially the Gospels. Or he/she may turn to the official Catholic Catechism in hard copy or online.

Of course, with any topic a researcher will most likely find an answer that contradicts what the popular opinion is. That's when we must remember an overarching truth about Church teaching. It is an application of Christ's teaching, and we believe that "Jesus is the same yesterday, today and forever."

On a lighter note, realize that our faith these days faces all kinds of challenges, there is another real test of faith. It's when you find yourself in church with nothing but a twenty-dollar bill in your wallet!

God love you and give you His peace.

Keith J. Murphy
Supervisor
Funeral Director



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IN REMEMBRANCE OF
SAMANTHA JOSEPHSON

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