

Sacred Heart Parish

120 Jefferson Street ~ Swedesburg, Pennsylvania, 19405

(610) 275-1750



I have come
not to *abolish*
but to *fulfill*.

MATTHEW 5:17

© JPPC

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

Mary Sue Kilian

Parish Bookkeeper

mkilian@shswedesburg.org

Joanne D'Alessandro

Parish Office Manager

jdalessandro@shswedesburg.org

Brenda Turner

Cemetery Manager

Parish Office Assistant

bturmer@shswedesburg.org

Carl Gedeik

Director of

Liturgical Music

Joe & Jeff Houseal

Directors of Parish

& Cemetery Facilities

FEBRUARY 15, 2026
SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Dear Parishioners,

I am pleased to announce that next Sunday our parish will begin its Lenten Mission, **"Why Be Catholic,"** led by Fr. Ken Geraci of the Fathers of Mercy. To help us prepare, Fr. Geraci will be preaching at all of our Masses next weekend to personally invite you to this week of grace.

The mission will run from **Monday, February 23, through Thursday, February 26, 2026.** Each evening, Fr. Geraci will be available to hear **confessions starting at 6:00 PM,** followed by his mission presentation.

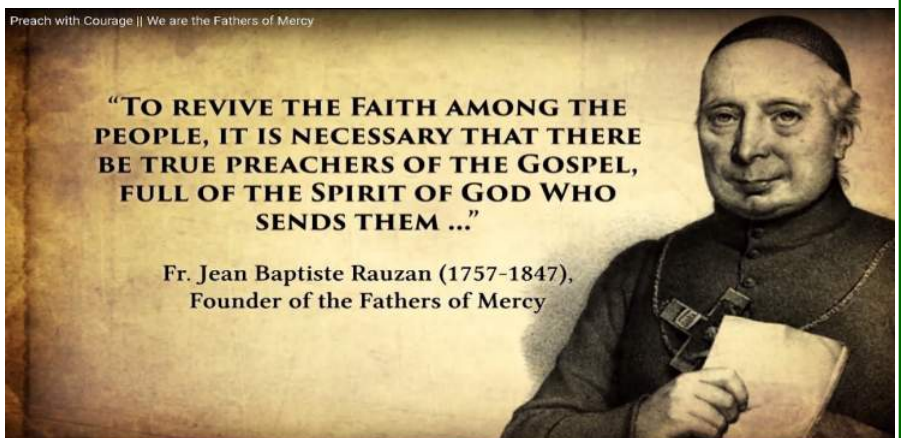
In a world that often suggests we can be "spiritual" without being "religious," this mission serves as a powerful reminder of why the Church is essential to our relationship with God. Throughout the week, Fr. Geraci will guide us through four vital topics:

- **What Did Jesus Do – Church or Spirituality?:** Discover the biblical evidence for the Church Jesus founded versus a purely individual spirituality.
- **Why Do We Do That as Catholics?:** Gain the confidence to understand and explain our unique Catholic traditions and beliefs.
- **Two Obstacles to Healing:** Identify the specific spiritual barriers that prevent us from experiencing God's peace and emotional restoration.
- **How to Pray the Mass:** Learn how to move from passive attendance to active, supernatural participation in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass.

As we enter this Lenten season, I encourage you to make this mission a priority. This Mission will help us rediscover the beauty of our Catholic identity.

Please join us next weekend to welcome Fr. Geraci and hear his introductory message.

God love you!
Father DiMaria



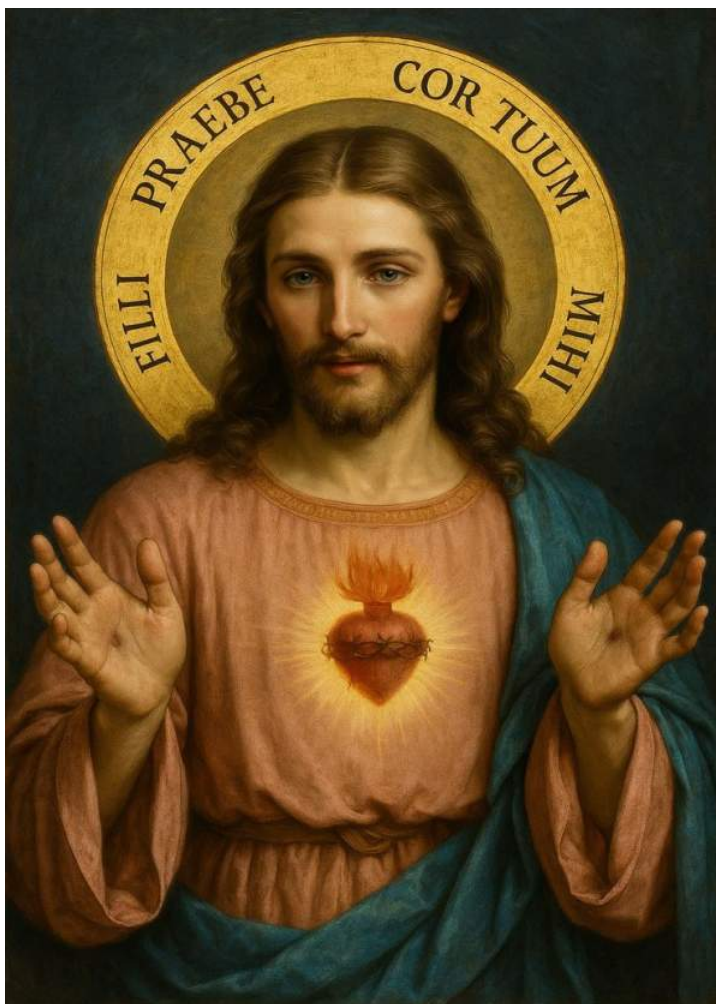
Child Care During the Lenten Mission

In order to allow as many people as possible to attend the Lenten Mission, child care will be available during the mission.

Baby sitting will be run by our PREP teachers under the direction of Linda Moser.

You may bring your child to the school hall as early as 6:40 p.m. and pick up your child after the Mission is complete. Please enter the hall through the rear entrance of the school building.

Toddlers and older children to the age of 12 are welcome. Older children may wish to bring their homework to the child care session.



“O my son, give me your heart. May your eyes take delight in following my ways.”

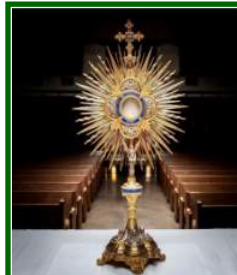


Ash Wednesday

Lent begins on February 18th with the observance of Ash Wednesday.

Holy Mass and the distribution of ashes will occur at 8:00 a.m.

Liturgy of the Word and distribution of ashes will take place at 4:00 p.m. & 7:00 p.m.



Eucharistic Adoration During the Wednesdays of Lent

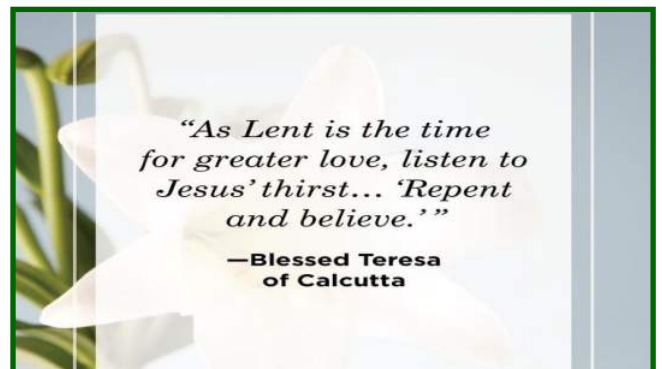
Beginning on Ash Wednesday and on all

Wednesdays of Lent, we will have adoration of the Blessed Sacrament beginning at Noon. There will be a sign-up sheet at the back of the church for people to commit to periods of Adoration.



Stations of the Cross and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament

We will have Stations of the Cross and Benediction of Blessed Sacrament beginning at 7:30 p.m. on the following Wednesdays of Lent: March 4, 11 and 18. There will be no Stations of the Cross on Wednesday of Holy Week.





MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, February 14

4:00pm Deceased Members of the Marinari Family

Requested by Bob & Theresa Wagner

Sunday, February 15

8:00am Deceased Members of the Keller & Estock Families

Requested by Mary Sue & Larry Kilian

10:15am Deceased Members of the Kuroczko, Woloszyn & DeStefano Families

Requested by Spike & Joan

Monday, February 16

8:00am Joyleen Branco

Requested by Daughter, Lauren & Family

Tuesday, February 17

8:00am Ed McGovern

Wednesday, February 18

8:00am Irene Sinnott

Requested by Jerry Pierce

Thursday, February 19

8:00am Jonathan Edwards

Requested by Sal & Charlotte DiNenna

Friday, February 20

8:00am Lorraine Keszczyk

Requested by Stan & Marge Leszczynski

Saturday, February 21

**4:00pm Frank Opielski
4th Anniversary & Birthday
Remembrance**

Requested by Wife, Wanda & Family

Sunday, February 22

8:00am Betty Shannon

Requested by Marge & Stan Leszczynski

10:15am Donald & Josephine Pierce

Requested by The Family



LITURGICAL MINISTRIES



Let Us Serve The Lord With Gladness!

The following Ministers are scheduled for our Parish Masses.

Saturday evening, February 21:

4:00pm

Celebrant: Father Geraci, CPM

Extraordinary Minister: Larry Kilian

Lector: Michelle Efthimiadou

Sunday morning, February 22:

8:00am

Celebrant: Father Geraci, CPM

Extraordinary Minister: Marjorie Pruskowski

Lector: Tony Viggiano

10:15am

Celebrant: Father DiMaria

Extraordinary Minister: Pat Moletzsky

Lector: Danielle Carbone



Weekly Report

February 7 - 8, 2026

\$6,063.00

Thank you for your support of Our Parish!



We are happy to report that our Christmas collection totaled \$29,497.00.

Sincere thanks are extended to all of our people for their generous gifts to the parish.



**ETERNAL REST,
GRANT UNTO THEM O LORD!**

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

Virginia M. Dudas

*Who was called from this life on
February 8, 2026*

Patricia 'Pat' Gutkowski

*Who was called from this life on
February 10, 2026*

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

Welcome!
NEW Parishioners

We extend a warm welcome to

Luke & Jenna McIlvaine

The Kaer Family

who recently registered in our Parish!



**Registration for
Sacred Heart PREP
Summer Session
is now Open!**

The session runs from June 15 to June 19, 2026,
scheduled daily from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

*If Upper Merion Area School District schedules a
makeup day on June 15, the program will begin on
June 16, with an extra hour added each day.

PREP registration fees are as follows:

- \$125 for one child
- \$150 for two children
- \$175 for three or more children

Register between February 1 and March 29.

Registrations submitted after March 29 will incur a
\$50 late fee. If you have questions or concerns,
please contact the Pastor or CRE. Registration forms
are available at the back of the church or on the
parish website.

Children must complete two consecutive years of
religious education before receiving a sacrament,
which includes attending all required sacrament
preparation classes. Furthermore, all students must
complete five PREP family activities by the end of
each PREP year.



*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.



Salvatore Salamone	Al Cowling
Francisca Diniz	Mary (Puzio) Stephenson
Lisa Ronan	Mary Boyle
David Reuter	Fran Toth
Bob Bores	Joan Birely
Chas Pires	Martha & John Smoczylo
Julie Burk	Kelly Benedict
Greg Schloth	Patricia Gaffney
William J. Ryan	Angela Desmond
June DiDesidero	Eileen Brandt
Cindy Burke	Denise & Tom Kavanagh
Parker Grey Davis	Michael Martin
Catherine Martin	Ronald Halas
Joseph Puzio	Marge & Stan Leszczynski
Piper Kaplan	Fran & Rob Worrall
Francis Rodenbaugh III	Marion Raup
Karen Braithwaite	Irene Elliott
Elaine Fertal	Butch Rodenbaugh
Barbara Pruskowski	Nicholas Janicki
George Minnis	Laurie Ronan



Cereal Sunday Collection

We collected 134 boxes of breakfast cereal during the weekend of January 31 & February 1. 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.

Philadelphia's Annual Catholic Men's Conference - "PICK UP YOUR CROSS AND FOLLOW ME"



Man Up Philly 2026 invites the men of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia to the 18th Annual Men's Spirituality Conference to be held on Saturday, February 28th at Cardinal O'Hara's St. John Vianney Hall Theater. For more information and to register, visit: www.ManUpPhilly.com

Women of Hope Retreat March 20-22, 2026

Come to Malvern Retreat House to renew and refresh, while strengthening your relationship with our Lord. Take time and share in the company of women who seek more for their faith lives. The theme is, "Come into My Eucharistic Presence and be filled with the Fruits of Love and Mercy."

We are pleased to have **Bishop Joseph Coffey** as our retreat director. Celebrate Mass in our first Archdiocesan Shrine dedicated to St. Carlo Acutis, the first millennial saint of the youth. Please consider the gift of this weekend retreat for yourself and other women in your life. Conferences, time for reconciliation, Stations of the Cross, and the Rosary will be part of the weekend. The cost is \$290, and a \$75 deposit minimum is requested to secure your spot. To register, call 610-644-0400 or visit <https://www.malvernretreat.com>



SUDDENLY SENIORS

will meet this Thursday, February 19th @ the Swedesburg Firehouse on Jefferson Street beginning at 12. Bring your own lunch. Water, coffee & tea will be provided. Anyone able to bring a dessert, this will be greatly appreciated.

Guest speaker will be Sangeetha Srinivasan, Head of Community Engagement & Technology Coordinator at Upper Merion Township Library.

Anyone who is not yet a member of 'Suddenly Seniors', please consider joining. We would love to have you join our group. Meetings are on the Third Thursday of each month.



Palm Sunday Celebrated March 29, 2026 Bridgeport Elks Lodge #714 Decorated Palm Project

One sized palm will be available at a cost of \$12.00

Order should be placed by Friday March 6th. Orders placed after March 6 will be subject to availability.

Decorated Palms will be made Wednesday March 25th and Thursday March 26th

Pick-up on Thursday March 26th, noon till 6pm and Friday March 27th 10am till 6pm

Help is always welcome. If interested Contact Maureen 484-620-2093

We offer several ways of placing orders:

Call Bridgeport Elks Lodge #714 at 610-277-3810

Call Maureen DeStefano at 484-620-2093

Email: mdalvin@comcast.net

Mail the order form below to: Bridgeport Elks Lodge #714 494 Ford Street Bridgeport PA 19405

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Quantity: _____

Pick Up Date: _____

FEBRUARY 15, 2026

SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Reflection by Rev. Leonard N. Peterson

The pleasant lady parishioner checking out my supermarket order decides to share her nervous entry into “New Car World.” She admits being baffled by the new car she just bought. After all she had kept the “old buggy” for 14 years! Another example comes my priest friend, now gone to God. He admitted that he had arranged for two Saturday morning “dashboard lessons” from the very salesman who sold touted the car’s virtues.

I detect a certain parallel here with how one is to handle a whole new outlook both on life and on one’s relationship with God. Of course, God’s ways are not as well-known as they once were.

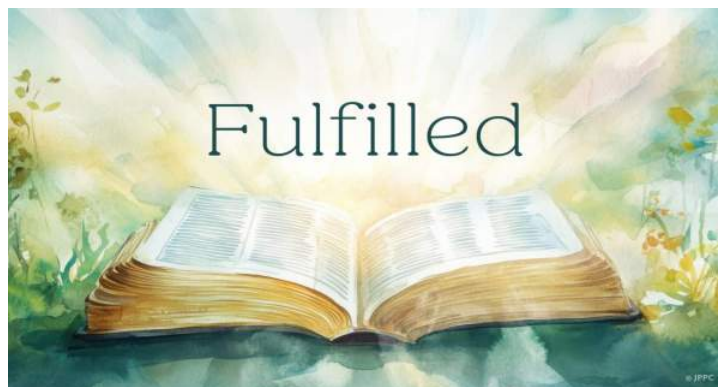
Gone are the days when whole generations automatically attended a Catholic elementary school, followed by Catholic high school and even college. So, the whole Catholic way of life, including Christ’s particular teaching on specifics, is as strange and alien as the tech in a new car.

This is not to forget the tremendous effort put forth by many dedicated soul’s work to educate and inspire the minds of young people and searchers for the truth of any age.

The “Sermon on the Mount” is at the heart of Matthew’s gospel. Its length means that it must not have been preached by Jesus at one time. Both He and His audience would have long since either fainted or walked away. Fortunately, we are blessed to have it easily accessible in book form or online. A good Catholic bible has many helpful footnotes to help us appreciate the text.

We are now only a few days out from the great penitential season of Lent. But that dominant characteristic does not preclude us from going back to basics about the faith or expanding our knowledge as a Lenten project. And with no worries about strange blinking dashboard lights and odd icons on your car’s touch screen! Just get started. Why? Because “Procrastination is the assassination of motivation.”

God love you and give you, His peace.



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Supervisor
Funeral Director



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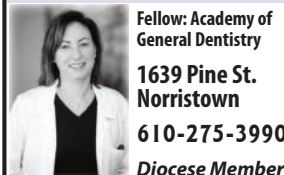
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in remembrance of *samantha josephson*

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