

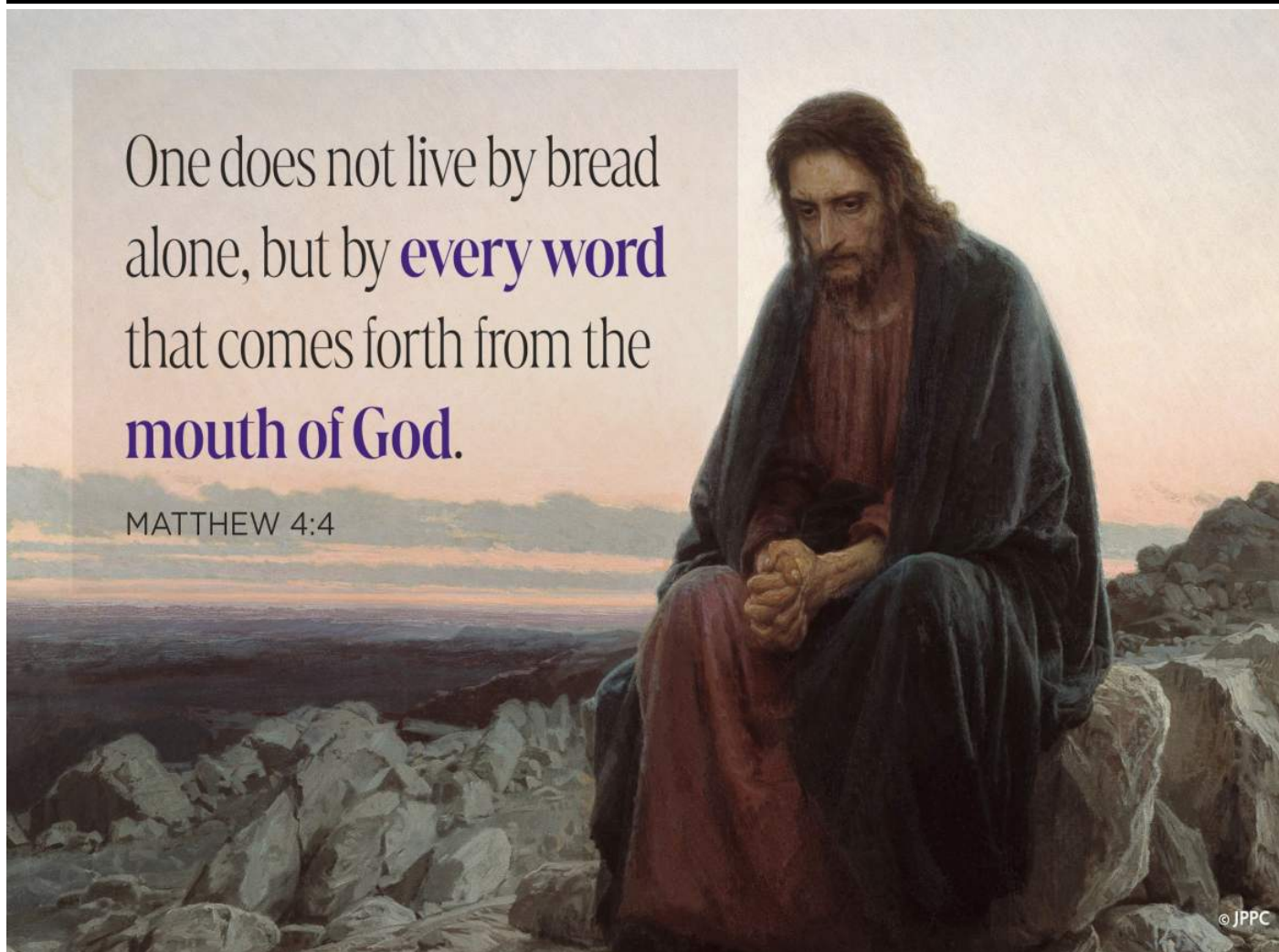
Sacred Heart Parish

120 Jefferson Street ~ Swedesburg, Pennsylvania, 19405

(610) 275-1750

One does not live by bread
alone, but by **every word**
that comes forth from the
mouth of God.

MATTHEW 4:4



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

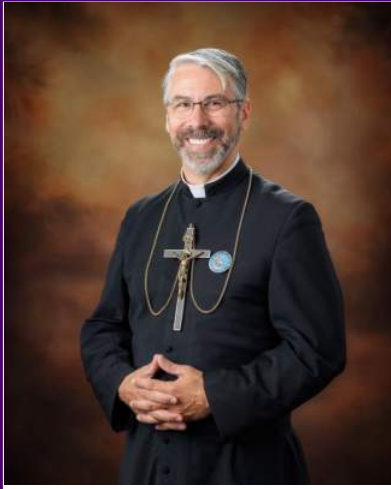
Liturgical Music

Joe & Jeff Houseal

Directors of Parish

& Cemetery Facilities

FEBRUARY 22, 2026
FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT



Sacred Heart Church
120 Jefferson Street
Bridgeport, PA

Join us each evening beginning at 7 p.m.
from February 22 to 26 for our
Parish Mission entitled:

Why Be Catholic?

Fr. Ken Geraci, lived the life of the prodigal son for most of his young adult life. Raised in a typical 1990's Catholic family, who only lived the externals of the faith, Fr. Ken left the Catholic Church for many years. During that time he worked as a business profession in Advanced R&D and software testing; a few years into his career he joined a few of his co-workers in establishing a 4.5M Internet software company. Focused on money, fitness and success, he made little room for God; but God did not give up on him. During this journey, God presented him with challenges that forced him to question his personal beliefs and the question "What is Truth?" Through a series of conversions, years of struggle, study and questioning, Fr. Ken found his way from agnosticism, to non-denomination Christianity and ultimately back to the Catholic Church.

Fr. Ken joined the Fathers of Mercy in 2006 and was ordained in 2012. Having lived a secular existence, Fr. Ken has a great understanding of the personal and societal pressures that individuals face and knows what it is like to "despise coming to church." This mission is for people of **all ages** and **levels of faith**.

Conference Topics

Monday: What Did Jesus Do: Church or Spirituality?

Tuesday: Why Do We Do That As Catholics?

Wednesday: Two Obstacles To Healing

Thursday: How To Pray The Mass



Eucharistic Adoration During the Wednesdays of Lent

Beginning 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.

*We adore You, O Christ, and we bless You, because
by Your Holy Cross You have redeemed the world!*



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.



Spaghetti Dinner Success!

Delicious food and great conversation made for a wonderful

spaghetti dinner last Sunday. Everyone had a great time. Such parish events are only possible when everyone pulls together to make it work.

Special thanks are owed to our kitchen crew: Frank, Liz, and Tommy Houseal, and Joe Maggio for preparing and cooking the meal. We are also very grateful to the parish's social committee and their crew who staffed the buffet as well as for setting up and breaking down the hall. Special thanks are extended to: Renee Bucci, Nadine Dennis, Beth Fabrizio, Joanie Galleo, Karen Hinchey, Andy, Melanie and Andrew Moletzsky, Andy and Pat Moletzsky, MaryCatherine Murphy, Lisa Pagnotti, Kelly Reid, and Erica Stefanik. Thanks are also due to our maintenance team: Joe and Jeff Houseal for their efforts to make the dinner a success. Well done, everyone!



"The higher your faith, the less you have to analyze, because you just accept. You know Jesus. He comes to you in disguised form, and the disguised form is pain, people, imperfections, sufferings, health, weather, opportunities, work, thousands of things, your faults, your weakness, your temperaments—the whole thing blessed."

Mother Angelica

EWTN.COM



MASS INTENTIONS

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

Monday, February 23

8:00am Jonathan Edwards
Requested by Butch & Anna Salkowski

Tuesday, February 24

8:00am Mario DiNenna
Anniversary Remembrance, Feb. 23
Requested by The Family

Wednesday, February 25

8:00am Lucia Carrero
Requested by The Diaz-Szerszen Family

Thursday, February 26

8:00am John Evan, Sr.
Birthday Remembrance
Requested by Eleanor & Junior

Friday, February 27

8:00am Mary "Sharleen" Nickson
Requested by MaryCatherine Murphy

Saturday, February 28

4:00pm Barbara Bores
Birthday Remembrance
Requested by The Bores & Stalker Families

Sunday, March 1

8:00am Carl Hinchey
Anniversary Remembrance, Feb. 28
Requested by Wife, Karen

10:15am Anna Rosa Cilli
Birthday Remembrance
Requested by The Sommerer Family



LITURGICAL MINISTRIES



Let Us Serve The Lord With Gladness!

The following Ministers are scheduled for our Parish Masses.

Saturday evening, February 28:

4:00pm

Celebrant: Father DiMaria

Extraordinary Minister: Barbara JanFrancisco

Lector: Walt Fromm, Jr.

Sunday morning, March 1:

8:00am

Celebrant: Father DiMaria

Extraordinary Minister: Valencia Zaremba

Lector: Eileen Bralski

10:15am

Celebrant: Father Lyons

Extraordinary Minister: Andy Moletzsky

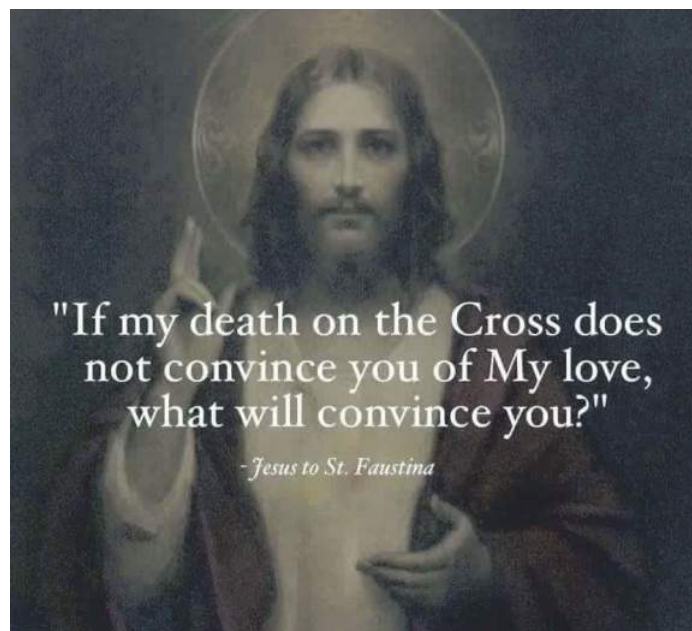
Lector: John Keidel



February 14 - 15, 2026

\$8,913.00

Thank you for your support of Our Parish!



pray ————— give
L E N T
 fast



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.

In Loving Memory



We are grateful for a donation received in Memory of

Patricia "Pat" Gutkowski

On behalf of:

John & Bernadette Golbreski



We extend a warm welcome to

The Gabriel Burnshaw Family

who recently registered in our Parish!



- | | |
|------------------------|--------------------------|
| 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 |

**Suddenly Seniors
 Bus Trip to Shady
 Maple Smorgasbord
 & Hollywood Casino
 in Morgantown**



Thursday, April 16th

The bus will leave the church parking lot at 10:00 AM and will return at 4:30 PM

Cost is \$85. and gratuity is included with lunch.

Payment is due upon making reservation.

Questions? Contact:

June at junedidesi@gmail.com

Ken at knsnadwodny@aol.com



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Lent Dinners

Every Friday During Lent

February 20, 2025 - April 3, 2025

5 PM – 8 PM - Eat in Or Take Out

See Facebook for info



***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: _____



**The 40 Days for Life
Lenten Campaign is
a worldwide, life-
saving event which
runs from 2/18/26
through 3/28/26.**

This effort consists of peaceful prayer vigils outside Planned Parenthood and other abortion facilities. It is a community-based campaign that takes a determined, peaceful approach to showing local communities the consequences of abortion in their own neighborhoods, for their own friends and families. It puts into action a desire to cooperate with God in the carrying out of His plan for the end of abortion. It draws attention to the evil of abortion through prayer. Each day during 40 Days for Life, individuals, churches, families and groups will be asked to join together in prayer for conversion of souls so the entire Body of Christ can unite around a common focus. The prayers seek God's help for; women who are at risk of having an abortion, innocent children who are at risk of perishing, men and women who carry the pain of a past abortion experience, workers at abortion centers, renewal in our churches and the repentance and healing of our nation. Daily devotionals & more information are available at www.40daysforlife.com

Go any day & anytime with a friend to pray. *Our parish will again participate: this Spring on Thursday, March 19th at Norristown Planned Parenthood. Please sign up in the back of church. You will not attend alone.*

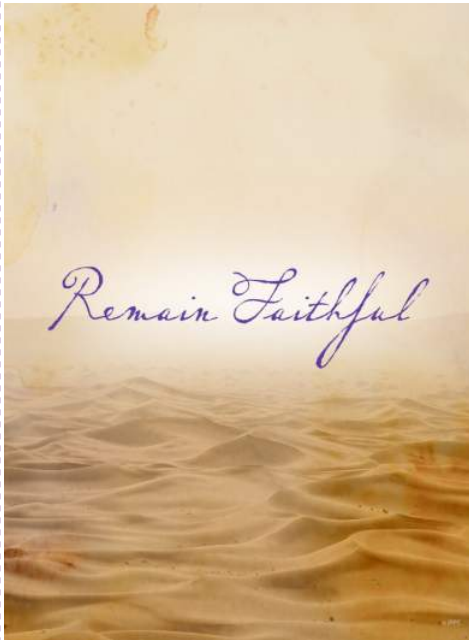
An experienced volunteer from Respect Life will join you.

**6,144 known babies saved
275 abortion clinic workers quit
184 abortion centers closed**

FEBRUARY 22, 2026

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

Reflection by Rev. Leonard N. Peterson



The battle here described by Matthew did not have the scope of the D Day invasion of France. Nor was it as well known as the duel between Hamilton and Burr, mostly because there were no outside observers. St. Matthew, I presume, had the inspiration of the Holy Spirit to record the truly significant battle between the “father of lies” and the total Truth, as the devil set about tempting Jesus our Lord. It was unique and consequential for all human history. Along the way, we can derive encouragement for our personal battles and struggles.

As we reread the well-known gospel, there is a certain tension we can almost feel. Satan displays his complete knowledge of what “makes us tick.” He knows precisely where our weaknesses lie as he confronts Our Lord with the top three temptations, we all face: fame, power, and wealth. That is a helpful reminder to us of what we have to tackle so often in life. If we are honest with ourselves, we must admit our helplessness to be victorious without the help of our powerful and loving Lord.

Who among us potential saints have not been profoundly grateful for the Sacrament of Penance?

Genesis is blunt about our origin. Corinthians posits our backup in describing Christ’s obedience. We know Jesus was and is “like us in all things...but sin.” That guarantees comfort. That is the sendoff for the next 6 weeks. It is a challenge sent our way so that we may persevere in our courage and effort.

During World War II, when the Nazis were in almost every country of Europe, King Christian of Denmark stubbornly resisted the Nazis. His country was quite insignificant compared to powerful Germany, and the king knew he could not win on the battlefield, but he put up a valiant moral struggle.

One day he observed a Nazi flag flying above one of his public buildings. He reminded the German commander that this was contrary to the treaty between the two nations, and said, “The flag must be removed before twelve o’clock. Otherwise, I will send a soldier to remove it.” At five minutes before noon, the flag was still flying, and the king announced that he was sending a soldier to take it down. “The soldier will be shot,” the Nazi officer said. Then King Charles calmly said, “I think I should tell you that I will be that soldier.”

God love you and help you have a good Lent.

Keith J. Murphy
Supervisor
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