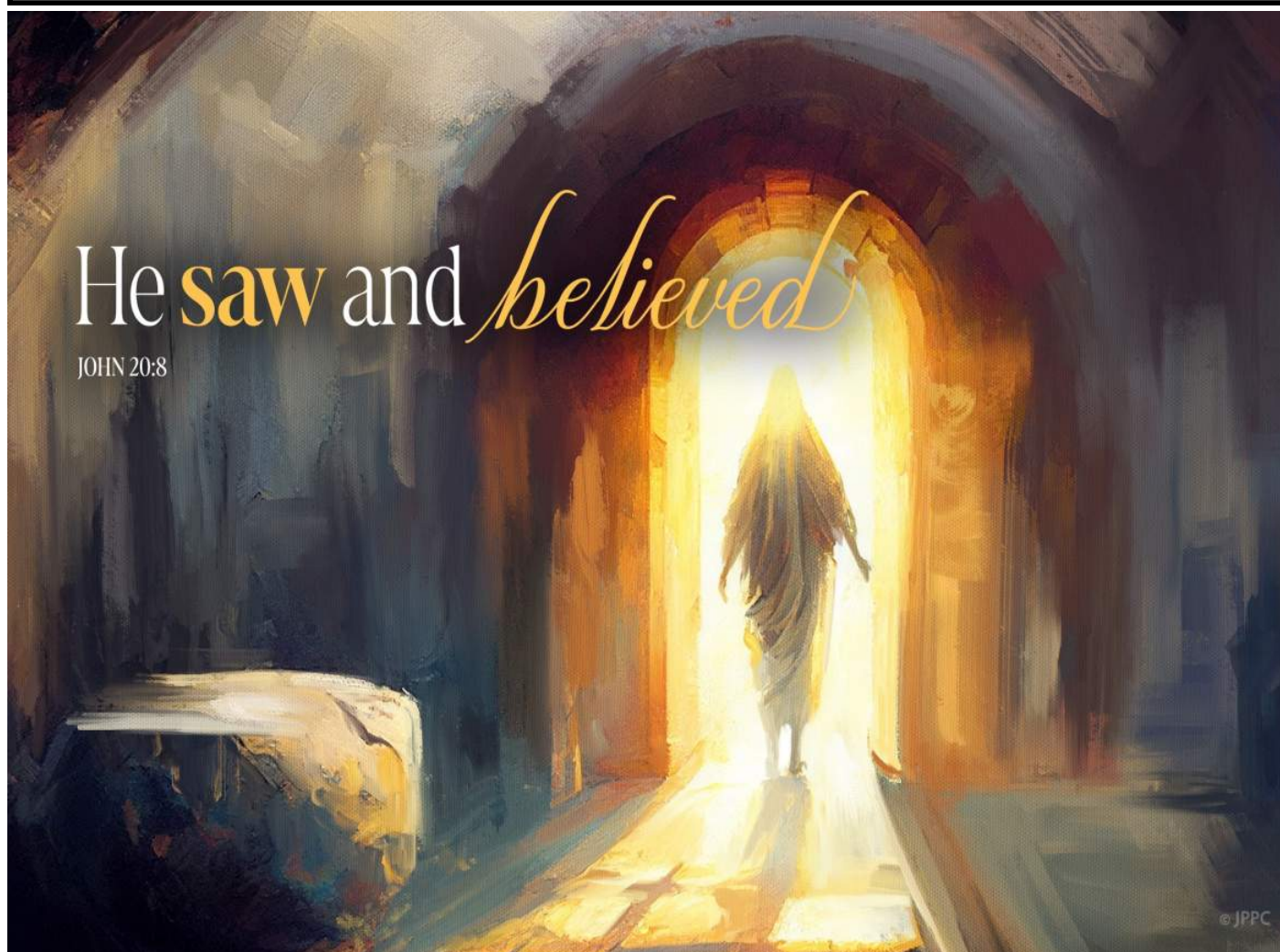


Sacred Heart Parish

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 Missionary:

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

APRIL 5, 2026

EASTER SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD

My dear friends in Christ,

“Christ is risen! Indeed, He is risen!” This ancient Easter greeting remains a powerful reminder that, against all odds, God has won.

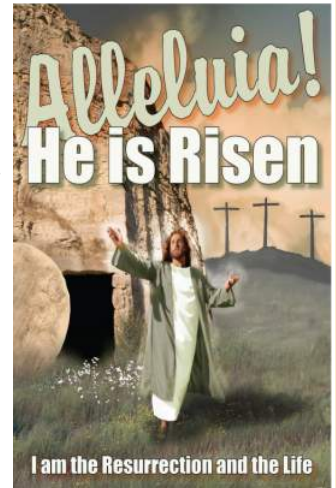
On Easter, we celebrate the victory of life. While we are often distracted by human failings, injustices, and the "culture of death," we must remember that God intended for us to live in fullness forever. We may feel the odds are stacked against us, but we are never beyond the reach of His saving grace.

From the Cross, Our Lord met our imperfections with forgiveness: “Father, forgive them, they do not know what they are doing.” In His Passion, God entered into our suffering to transform it. This is the triumph of good over evil—a victory fueled by a love poured out for the entire world.

The Resurrection reveals the true nobility of the life to which we are called. Let us be resolute in our faith and choose to follow Him who loves us so deeply.

May you and your loved ones rejoice in the blessings of the Resurrection.

Christ is risen! Indeed, He is risen!



Welcome to the Catholic Church!

During the Easter Vigil Mass, **William Ackerman, Liam Kessler, and Harvey Soqui** received the Sacraments of Initiation and were welcomed into full communion with the Catholic Church.

We offer our sincerest congratulations to these three young men. They have spent many months in diligent study, prayer, and reflection, preparing to follow Christ as His disciples.

We thank God for the gift of faith bestowed upon them and ask for your continued prayers as they join us on our pilgrimage to the Kingdom.

I am the Resurrection and the Life



Update on Sanctuary Mural

We were recently informed that the artist who was commissioned to paint the nine-foot mural of the Sacred Heart for the sanctuary wall has completed the painting. The painting has been shipped from Poland and will need to go through US Customs. The installation of the painting has been scheduled for the week of April 20th. We anxiously await the mural's arrival and installation.

ETERNAL REST, GRANT UNTO THEM O LORD!

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

Bertha Basile

*Who was called from this life on
March 16, 2026*

Mary Ann Collison

*Who was called from this life on
March 22, 2026*

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

FRIDAY NIGHT BINGO

Friday, April 10th
Doors open 6:00 PM ~ Games at 7:00 PM
Parish Hall
Chance to win up to \$500.00
Sponsored by: Knights of Columbus #3327

Happy 10th Anniversary! Celebrating 10 Years of Compassion: Caring for Friends Ministry

Please Join Our Celebration It has been an amazing journey, and we want to celebrate this milestone with the people who made it possible. Please stop by the **Parish Hall on Wednesday, April 8, at 6:00 PM** as we honor 10 years of service together.

With deep gratitude, *Lisa Pagnotti*



FEAST OF CORPUS CHRISTI

CORPUS CHRISTI JOINT CELEBRATION:

On June 7, we are planning a joint celebration of Mass with the two Bridgeport area parishes, Sacred Heart and St. John the Baptist. The 10:15 Mass at Sacred Heart (Ordinary Form of the Roman Rite) will welcome the clergy and people of St. John the Baptist.

Following Mass, a procession will move through the neighborhood, ending at St. John the Baptist (the former Our Lady of Mount Carmel) with

Benediction and a picnic. Bus transportation will be available before, during, and after the Mass and Procession. Holy Family Council Knights of Columbus are helping coordinate transportation and food. This is going to be a lot of fun, and a great opportunity to visibly show Catholic unity in our town and give public witness to the faith.

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, April 4
7:00pm Easter Vigil

Sunday, April 5
8:00am Helen A. Bednar
Birthday Remembrance, March 29
Requested by Son, John

10:15am The Intentions of the Benedict
Children, Vincent, John, Christopher,
& Michael
Requested by Their Parents

Monday, April 6
8:00am Miroslawa Pekala
Requested by The Zubkiewicz Family

Tuesday, April 7
8:00am Irene Sinnott
Requested by Lynne & Abelardo

Wednesday, April 8
8:00am Mary & Joseph Benkovich
Anniversary Remembrance
Requested by Eleanor & Junior

Thursday, April 9
8:00am Felix Perretta
Requested by Carl & Kass Perretta

Friday, April 10
8:00am Health Blessings for Frank DeSimone
Requested by Liz & Andrew Oreo

Saturday, April 11
4:00pm Lawrence Keeley
Requested by Janet Kita

Sunday, April 12
8:00am Betty Shannon
Requested by Therese Dolga & Family

10:15am Anthony Pretzello
Requested by Sal & Charlotte DiNenna



Let Us Serve The Lord With Gladness!

The following Ministers are scheduled for our Parish Masses.

Saturday evening, April 11:
4:00pm

Celebrant: Father DiMaria
Extraordinary Minister: Pat Moletzsky
Lector: Walt Fromm, Jr.

Sunday morning, April 12:
8:00am

Celebrant: Father DiMaria
Extraordinary Minister: Joan Koeck
Lector: Tony Viggiano

10:15am

Celebrant: Father Lyons
Extraordinary Minister: Valencia Zaremba
Lector: John Keidel



Pray always with a heart grounded in faith, hope and love. For it is these three through which you can accept God's Divine Will for you in each moment. These three - faith, hope and love - form the basis of your right reason and your courage - your spiritual strength. They are the warehouse of your strength.

~St. Catherine of Siena





In Loving Memory

We are grateful for a donation received in Memory of

Placida "Mary" DiGenova

On behalf of:

Ana DiNenna & Family



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.



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

SACRED HEART MISSION
WITH MISSION YOUTH

JOIN US IN EVANGELIZING OUR NEIGHBORS

9 May, 2026 Sacred Heart Parish

SCHEDULE
11:00AM-ARRIVAL AT SACRED HEART
11:15-12:00PM-TRAINING & HOLY HUDDLE
12:00-2:00PM CROSSWALKS
2:00-3:30PM-PIZZA AND HIGHS & LOWS
4:00PM - VIGIL MASS

120 JEFFERSON ST BRIDGEPORT, PA 19405



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



Time to Register for Sacred Heart PREP Summer Session

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

Registrations submitted after March 29 will incur a \$50 late fee.



The History and Power of

Eucharistic Adoration

What is the origin of Eucharistic Adoration and why is this devotion so powerful? Find out more on Wed.,

April 15th 6:45 - 8:45 p.m. in the coffee hour room

(enter hall from Ford Street

lot) St. John the Baptist Catholic Church 502 Ford St., Bridgeport, PA Parking available in the Ford Street lot, adjacent to the rectory & hall. (No Commitment – Meetings are Monthly – Come When You Can!) The Society of Patricians is sponsored by the Legion of Mary. More info:

r.edel.lukens@gmail.com or 610-256-7125 The society of the Patricians is an informal group of adult Catholics who meet monthly under the direction of Fr. Sam Keyes to learn more about the Catholic Faith so that they can better share it with others. Please come, and bring a friend! Refreshments will be served and free literature will be available.



It's *Never* too late for a *fresh start!*

Do you struggle with the emotional or spiritual pain of a traumatic pregnancy loss?

Whether you're suffering from an abortion or miscarriage, you can experience God's Mercy and Compassion. Rachel's Vineyard is a unique and creative weekend retreat that helps you grieve your loss while letting go of any deep feelings of anger, shame, guilt, or grief you may have. In a safe, confidential, and non-judgmental group setting, your soul will find a voice, and the pain of your past will be transformed into hope. For anyone who struggles with forgiving themselves or others, it's "therapy for the soul."

Jesus died not to judge or condemn you, but to forgive you. His sacrifice is freely given, and it is continually offered to you with His perfect love.

ATTEND OUR NEXT RETREAT: April 17 - 19, 2026

This weekend retreat will be held in Doylestown, PA, at the National Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa. For more information, please call Evelyn at (215) 317-5752. Read more about our retreat online at www.rachelsvineyard.org

All requests are strictly confidential. To financially assist in making this retreat available for future participants, especially for those in need of scholarships, please email evelynwalsh59@gmail.com for more information. May God bless you for your generosity. Rachel's Vineyard is a non-subsidiary 501(c)(3) organization. No goods or services are provided in return for your monetary donation, which is tax-deductible to the extent permitted by law.



The next book club meeting will be on April 21st at 1:30 in

the Rectory Meeting Room. We will be discussing The Shack by William P. Young.



All are welcome to join us.

The Parish Office will be closed on Easter Monday, April 6th.

Celebrate the resurrection of our Lord!

Happy EASTER





EASTER SUNDAY

THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD

Reflection by Rev. Leonard N. Peterson

The arrival of "AI" in our world, particularly its proven ability to fool our eyes into believing that what we are seeing is reality when all along it is artificial, can make us doubtful observers. That has the cumulative effect of turning us all into being suspicious types.

What has this to do with Easter 2026? I would suggest that the doubts or the denial that non-believers have all along professed about Jesus' resurrection could be bolstered if they are strong "AI" converts. acting mostly on emotion.

Meanwhile, the collection of witness statements that we will be hearing and reading about in our bibles for the next 50 days are too real and strong to deny. The fact that the Apostles and many early disciples faced death rather than deny what they believed is more proof, if you happen to need any.

What is left to us is an application of a principle usually attributed to one Steven Covey. He wrote this: "The main thing is to keep the main thing the main thing." It is a powerful reminder to focus on our highest priorities. We must avoid distractions and dedicate energy to what truly matters for achieving our goals, whether in leadership, or personal development or Christian spirituality. It means identifying our core objective (life with Christ forever in heaven) and constantly re-aligning our efforts with it (e.g., making regular Confession), rather than getting sidetracked by less important tasks.

To cite just one example. We have noise of all kinds that distract us from "the main thing." It interferes with our time to reflect 24/7/365. We must work to get it back.

So, on this special Sunday, we need to be putting side bunny rabbits and all sorts of cute verses about the coming of Spring. Here is the main thing: "Jesus of Nazareth, the Son of God, who was crucified and died for the remission of our sins, was also raised from the dead on the Third Day by God the Father, never to die again." This is the Day the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it!

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!



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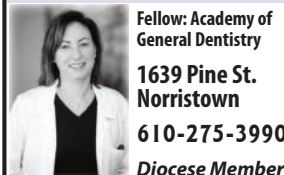
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