

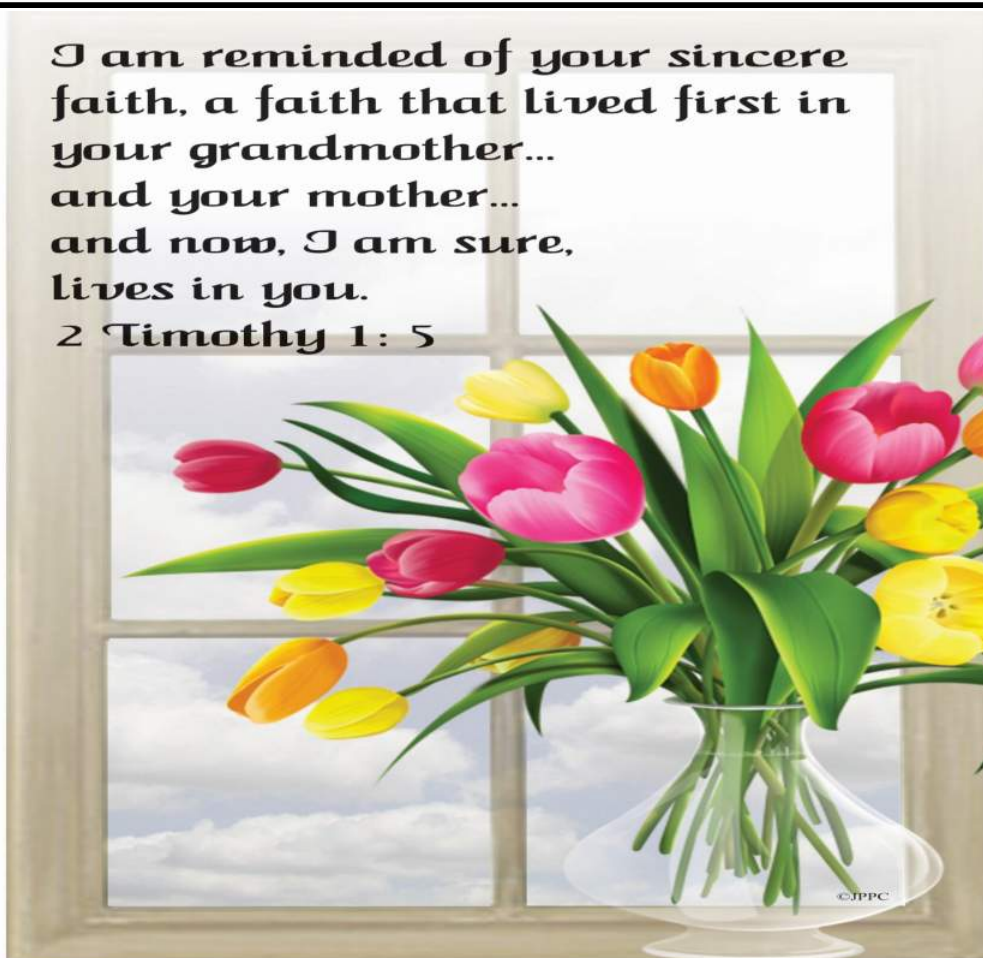
Sacred Heart Parish

120 Jefferson Street ~ Swedesburg, Pennsylvania, 19405

(610) 275-1750

**I am reminded of your sincere
faith, a faith that lived first in
your grandmother...
and your mother...
and now, I am sure,
lives in you.**

2 Timothy 1: 5



Happy Mother's Day

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*

Carl Gedeik

*Director of
Liturgical Music*

Brett Cuddy

Choir Director
bdcuddy@gmail.com

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

btturner@shswedesburg.org

Joe & Jeff Houseal

*Directors of Parish
& Cemetery Facilities*

MAY 10, 2026

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

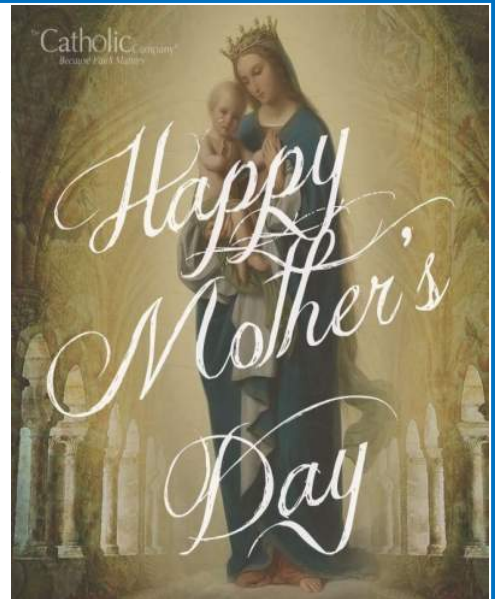
On this beautiful Mother's Day, we pause as a parish to honor you, our mothers, and to thank God for the precious gift of your motherhood. Whether you are a new mother holding your first child, a seasoned mother watching your little ones grow, a grandmother whose love spans generations, or a spiritual mother who nurtures souls through prayer and care — today, we celebrate your special role in our lives.

Motherhood is one of God's most sacred vocations. Through your tender hands, patient hearts, and unwavering love, you reflect the very face of God to your families. Your sacrifices, often unseen, are never unnoticed by our Heavenly Father, who treasures each prayer whispered over a sleeping child and every tear shed in love.

On this special day, we lift our eyes to the Blessed Mother, the perfect model of motherhood. In her *fiat* — her humble "yes" to God — she became the Mother of our Savior and, by His gift from the Cross, the Mother of us all. May her gentle example inspire you, her powerful intercession protect you, and her maternal heart accompany you in every joy and trial.

To the mothers whose children have gone home to the Lord, to those who long for motherhood, and to those who mother others in quiet, beautiful ways — you are held in our prayers today as well.

May God bless you abundantly, fill your hearts with peace, and reward your love a hundredfold. We thank you for all you do, and most of all, for who you are.

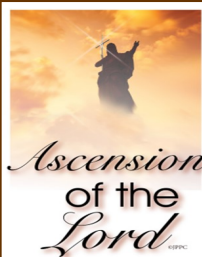


**Guiding Star Maternity Home
Take a Bottle—Fill with Donations**

We kindly ask that all baby bottles be returned by **Sunday, May 31**. The proceeds from the bottles will help support the Guiding Star Maternity Home. Thank you for helping others.



Join our **Caring for Friends** Ministry at the Parish Hall on **Wednesday, May 13** at 6:00pm. All you need to do is make a pot of your favorite homemade soup, a hearty batch of chili, some mac & cheese, beef stew. Containers and labels will be provided. **All are welcome!**



The Ascension of the Lord, Thursday, May 14

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

Wednesday, May 13 at 4:00 PM

Thursday, May 14 at 8:00 AM

Thursday, May 14 at 7:00 PM



Cereal Sunday Success!

During May's "Cereal Sunday" we collected 174 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.



Support for the Sacred Heart Sisters – April Poor Box

Dear Parishioners,

Recently I learned the news of a devastating electrical fire that occurred on the night of March 25, 2026, at the St. Joseph Convent and Retreat House in Portage, PA. As many of our long-time parishioners will remember, the **Sister Servants of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus** once faithfully served our parish and made their home in our convent. Their legacy of prayer, service, and devotion remains a cherished part of our parish history.

Thanks be to God, the Sisters living at the convent at the time of the fire were able to escape safely, and no one was killed or injured in the blaze. However, the damage to the convent has been significant:

- The Sisters' living quarters were completely destroyed, with the loss of nearly all of their personal belongings.
- Severe smoke and water damage has affected the entire building.
- Firefighters were able to save the chapel and retreat wing, though these areas also sustained damage.

In a spirit of gratitude for the Sisters' past service to our community, the proceeds from our **April Poor Box, totaling \$480.00**, will be sent directly to the Sacred Heart Sisters to assist with their recovery efforts.

How You Can Help

The Sisters are facing significant costs for reconstruction and refurbishment that insurance may not fully cover. I invite all parishioners who feel called to do so to make a **private contribution** to support the Sisters during this difficult time. Donations can be made through the following channels:

- **Official Sacred Heart Sisters Website:** www.sacredheartsisters.org
- **Donations by Mail:** Mother Provincial Mary Joseph, SSCJ, Sacred Heart Province, 866 Cambria Street, Cresson, Pennsylvania 16630

The Sister Servants of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus are a 501(c)(3) Tax Exempt Religious Organization (Federal ID 20-8127262), so your contributions are tax-deductible.

Above all, please keep the Sisters in your prayers during this time of trial. May the Sacred Heart of Jesus, to whom these good Sisters have devoted their lives, grant them strength, consolation, and a swift recovery.

With gratitude for your generosity,
Father DiMaria

FEAST OF THE SACRED HEART CELEBRATION DINNER

SUNDAY, JUNE 14, 2026
Welcome reception begins at 4:30 pm

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

Ticket Sales Start on
May 16 through June 7
after all weekend Masses
and at the Rectory during regular office hours

WELCOME RECEPTION: Assorted cheese, bruschetta, & hot apps.

DINNER: House salad w/assorted dressings, Penna Ala Vodka

Seasonal Vegetable Medley, Roast Red Potatoes

Carved Prime Rib, Chicken Picatta

Cheese Cake with fruit topping

Soda, Ice tea, Coffee, and Hot Tea, **BYOB**

St. Helena's Church Empress Room

1489 Dekalb Pike Blue Bell, PA 19422

Catering by Joseph Paravati

Music by Fasano Entertainment



Join us for dinner & dancing!



Sacred Heart
PARISH

AND



Saint John the Baptist Catholic Church
BRIDGEPORT - PENNSYLVANIA

invite you to a joint parish celebration of

CORPUS CHRISTI

10:15am - Solemn Mass at Sacred Heart Church,

followed by a grand Eucharistic procession through Bridgeport
to St. John the Baptist, concluding with Benediction & community cookout

SUNDAY, JUNE 7 2026



MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, May 9

4:00pm Anne O'Meara

Requested by Regina & Ian Janoski & Family

Sunday, May 10

8:00am Patricia "Pat" Gutkowski

*Requested by Bernie & Jackie Gutkowski
& Family*

10:15am Robert & Esther Cantando

Requested by The Family

Monday, May 11

8:00am Ed McGovern

Requested by Janet Johnson

Tuesday, May 12

8:00am Virginia Dudas

Requested by Liz & Andrew Oreo

Wednesday, May 13

8:00am Wasyl & Anastasia Maruszczak

Requested by Bill & Bridget Maruszczak

4:00pm Martha Smoczylo

Requested by Barbara Roskos

Thursday, May 14

8:00am Jim McMonigle

Requested by Wife, Lori & Son, Brian

7:00pm Pat Gutkowski

Requested by Spike & Joan DeStefano

Friday, May 15

8:00am Virginia Dudas & Evelyn Horning

Requested by Son & Nephew, Pat

Saturday, May 16

4:00pm Frank Janoski, Jr.

Requested by Regina & Ian Janoski & Family

Sunday, May 17

8:00am Joseph Saboe

Requested by Mary Sue & Larry Kilian

10:15am George A. Gallagher

50th Anniversary Remembrance, May 18

*Requested by Children, Grandchildren &
Great-Grandchildren*



Let Us Serve The Lord With Gladness!

The following Ministers are scheduled for our Parish Masses.



Wednesday evening, May 13:

4:00pm

Extraordinary Minister:

Barbara JanFrancisco

Lector: Tony Viggiano

Thursday morning, May 14:

8:00am

Extraordinary Minister:

Marjorie Pruskowski

Lector: Rich McVoy

Thursday evening, May 14:

7:00pm

Extraordinary Minister: Larry Kilian

Lector: Helen Keller Surman

Saturday evening, May 16:

4:00pm

Celebrant: Father DiMaria

Extraordinary Minister: Pat Moletzsky

Lector: Robert Stefanik

Sunday morning, May 17:

8:00am

Celebrant: Father DiMaria

Extraordinary Minister: Larry Kilian

Lector: Rich McVoy

10:15am

Celebrant: Father Lyons

Extraordinary Minister: Joan Koeck

Lector: John Keidel



Weekly Report

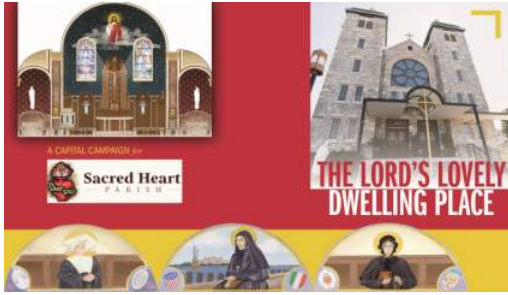
May 2 - 3, 2026

\$8,264.15

Easter collection

\$32,801.40

Thank you for your support of Our Parish!



Our Church Painting Project Is Complete!

Dear Friends in Christ,

With hearts full of gratitude to Almighty God, I am overjoyed to announce that our church painting project has been brought to a beautiful completion with the installation of our magnificent sanctuary mural of the Sacred Heart.

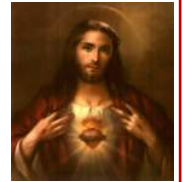
As you enter our church, take a moment to gaze upon this stunning image of Our Lord, whose Heart burns with infinite love for each of us. May this mural be a lasting reminder of Christ's tender mercy and a source of inspiration for generations of parishioners to come. I encourage you to pause before it often, to pray, and to entrust your intentions to His Sacred Heart.

To every parishioner who contributed to this campaign — whether through prayer, pledges, or sacrificial giving, — please accept my deepest gratitude. This beautiful work of sacred art exists because of *your* generosity and love for our parish. You have given a gift not only to us, but to all who will worship here in the years and decades ahead.

Through the goodness of our parish family, \$268,460.00 was pledged to this campaign, and to date we have received \$181,121.44. To those who made a pledge: thank you, and please remember to keep regular with your payment schedule so that we can fulfill our financial commitments.

To those who have not yet had the opportunity to contribute, I invite you to join in completing this holy work. No gift is too small — every offering is a participation in adorning the House of the Lord. Please enclose your donation in an envelope and mark it "Church painting project." You may also make your contribution on line.

May the Sacred Heart of Jesus abundantly bless you and your families!
Father DiMaria



The May meeting of the Book Club will be on May 19th at 1:30 in the Rectory Meeting Room. Since the April meeting was canceled, we will be discussing both our April book (The Shack) and our book for May which is Twice by Mitch Albom. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Since the April meeting was canceled, we will be discussing both our April book (The Shack) and our book for May which is Twice by Mitch Albom. Everyone is welcome to attend.



The May meeting for Suddenly Seniors will be on Thursday, May 28th at 12:00 at the Swedesburg Firehouse. We will be celebrating all our birthdays so lunch will be provided. If you are planning to attend please RSVP:

carolamcdevitt@verizon.net by May 21st.

A ONE-DAY CATHOLIC RETREAT

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Deepen your relationship with God.
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“ Love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. ”
— MATTHEW 22:37

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ANDREA LAFOUNTAIN
FOREWORD BY THE VERY REV. BAZE COLE, OF STS. SIM

SATURDAY, MAY 16, 2026
8:30 AM – 4:00 PM

MALVERN RETREAT HOUSE
St. Joseph Hall
315 S. Warren Avenue
Malvern, PA 19355
610-644-0400

See website to register.

DISCOVER THE P.A.C.T. PATHWAY

 PRAYER Deepen your conversation with God	 ACCOUNTABILITY Grow with honest relationships and spiritual support	 CONFESSION Experience freedom and healing in God's mercy	 TIME Make space for God in the busyness of life
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THIS RETREAT WILL HELP YOU:

- Love God with your whole self—heart, soul & mind
- Make beyond-reason faith no real transformation
- Encounter God more deeply
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MALVERN RETREAT HOUSE
reflect, refresh, rejoice

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Questions?
Retreat House: 610-644-0400
Retreat Details: Truth First Ministry

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In honor of the 250th Anniversary of the founding of the United States of America, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) will consecrate our nation to the Sacred Heart of Jesus in June 2026. To enter into the graces of this consecration, consider the following:

ENTHRONE

an image of the Sacred Heart in your home, parish, school or workplace

CONSECRATE

yourself or your family to the Sacred Heart of Jesus

Find resources and more information at

ARCHPHILA.ORG/UNDERGOD



St. John the Baptist Catholic Church invites you to join in praying the **Patriotic Rosary** for the Consecration of our Nation and for peace in the world on **Saturday, May 16th (Armed Forces**

Day) at 11 am, outside, in the Ford Street parking lot. (In case of rain, we will use the hall.) Location: 502 Ford St., Bridgeport, PA. Parking is available in the Ford St lot, the Union Ave lot, and on the street. Light refreshments will be served after the prayers. Some seating will be available -- feel free to bring lawn chairs if you like. ***This is a non-political, non-partisan event. All are welcome to join us in praying for our country.*** Veterans and active military: feel free to wear something to signify your service! More info:

r.edel.lukens@gmail.com or 610-256-7125.

We hope to see you there!



Need Mental Health Support?

The Catholic Church of Philadelphia now offers a Mental Health Referral Network to help individuals and families find trusted professionals and resources for care and healing. This network includes information on providers' religious affiliations, so you can find support that aligns with your faith. Visit:

<https://archphila.org/mental-health-referral-network/> to learn more.

Archdiocese of Philadelphia, PA – Care Manager

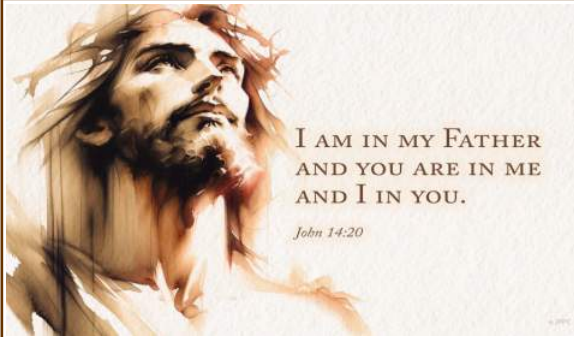
Do you have a healthcare background? Do you love your Catholic faith and have a desire to help priests set and meet healthy living goals? Our archdiocese is seeking applications for a unique, mission-driven position dedicated to providing essential healthcare navigation and support for our clergy members. This role does not require hands-on clinical care. Please submit your resume to: REC@metacareusa.com

For more information, scan the QR Code:



SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

MAY 10, 2026



Reflection by Rev. Leonard N. Peterson

Occasionally, it is good for us to take the time to analyze why we do what we do. Inevitably we conclude that we humans often have a way of complicating things that are actually simple. At Christmas time I often think of loving parents compelled to set up some toy or game in the wee hours of Christmas morning with a maze of instructions and diagrams not easily followed even when they are wide awake. Or I remember a time when I had to assemble a piece of IKEA furniture using a set of their tedious instructions.

Religious beliefs and practices often suffer from the same circumstances. Granted, we have a digest of the faith in the Nicene Creed we recite every Sunday at Mass. This is helpful. But then we look at the Catechism given to us by the Church and see a book with hundreds of teachings filling its pages.

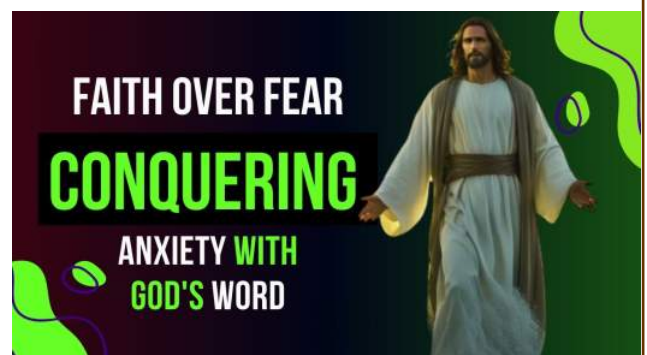
It is true that life itself can sometimes be complicated, especially in our computer-driven world. But the elements of true religion, especially our own, come down to simple basics easily found in the Scriptures we hear each Sunday or more. Today we have one of them clearly stated in the Readings chosen. In the Acts reading, we find Philip preaching successfully to the Samaritans, which leads to many baptisms. Then Peter and John are invited to bless and confirm this new idea of welcoming Gentiles.

St. Peter in his Letter urges us to know what we are talking about when we present the Faith to others, and to do so calmly when people raise questions.

Finally, the Gospel reminds us that the Holy Spirit dwells in the Church as our guide to the truth. Most importantly, our commitment to Christ is proven by works and not merely by words. Words are often cheap enough. Works are always precious, even if they are sometimes simple. The mission you and I inherit through Baptism requires that our words and our works match. Simple enough. It is difficult sometimes to live out.

I like the following quote about faith.
"Every tomorrow has two handles: we can take hold of it by the handle of anxiety or by the handle of faith."

God love you and give you Easter peace.



Keith J. Murphy
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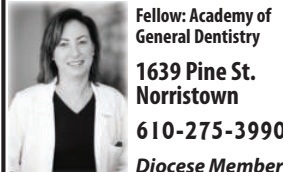
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