

Sacred Heart of Jesus Church

215 Lackawanna Avenue, Dupont, Pennsylvania 18641

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Rev. Father Thomas J. Petro, J.C.L., KHS, Pastor

Weekend Masses: Saturday Vigil at 4 p.m.; Sunday at 8:30 and 10:30 a.m.

Holy Day Masses: Vigil at 4 p.m.; 7 a.m. and 5:30 p.m.

Weekday Masses: 7:30 a.m.

Confessions are heard Saturdays at 3:15 p.m.

Parish Office hours: Monday – Thursday, 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.; Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 12 p.m.

✠ Fourth Sunday of Lent ♦ March 22, 2020 ✠

Niech będzie pochwalony Jezus Chrystus! Na wieki wieków. Amen.

The Parochial Pen

My dear parishioners,

At this time I need to make you aware of our parish's response to the Coronavirus pandemic. By order of the Bishop of Scranton, following the recommendations of our Governor and President, the public celebration of Mass has been canceled until further notice. However, Sacred Heart of Jesus Church is open for your private prayer at the following times:

Monday – Friday: 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Saturday: 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Sunday: 7:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.

Confessions can be scheduled by calling the parish office. Requests for Anointing of the Sick can still be made by calling the parish office. Although normal parish office hours are being maintained, office visitors are asked to call before they visit. If you are able to conduct parish business by way of email or telephone, then please choose that method of communication rather than coming to visit in person. I will continue to offer private Mass daily for the intentions published in the bulletin. *The private Mass that I celebrate in our church each Saturday will be live-streamed on our Facebook page at 5:00 p.m.* Also, the daily television broadcast of Mass from St. Peter's Cathedral, Scranton, will continue weekdays at 12:10 p.m., 3:30 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. on CTV, as well as the Saturday Vigil at 4:00 p.m. which will be rebroadcast on Sunday at 10:00 a.m. Holy Communion will still be brought to the homebound on first Friday. All Weddings/Baptisms/Funerals will continue but their attendance is to be limited to immediate family only.

Finally, I ask that you continue your regular weekly contributions to our parish. Even though public Mass has been canceled, none of our expenses have been canceled. You may mail your contribution envelopes to the parish office, make use of online giving or simply drop them in the collection basket located near the church entrance when you make a private visit to our church. Your continued financial support during this public health crisis is essential for the life of our parish. In addition to your regular offertory contributions, please give the gift of daily prayer, especially the Rosary, for the needs of all effected by this pandemic. Be assured of a daily share in my personal prayers and private Masses.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Father Petro

During this time that the obligation to attend Mass has been suspended, parishioners are encouraged to mail in their contributions to the parish office. Each month our parish owes a combined bill of \$7,896.67 to pay our Diocesan Assessment and Catholic School Subsidy. This means that each week \$1,822.31 from our collection goes toward these bills. Your continued contribution during this difficult time is vital for the payment of parish bills.

Have you considered online giving? To set up your account, log on to our parish website at www.sacredheartdupont.com and then click on the "online giving" tab. This will bring you to the online giving site. If you have any questions regarding online giving, please contact the parish office.

Canceled activities include: Stations of the Cross, Lenten Evenings of Reflection, Choir practice, St. Ignatius Spiritual Exercises, *Gorzkie Zale*, Road to Resurrection, The Light Is On For You, and meetings for all parish societies/organizations.

The Fourth Sunday of Lent is traditionally known as *Laetare* Sunday, so-called from the first word of the antiphon at the Introit. *Laetare*, ("Rejoice"), taken from the Latin translation of Isaiah 66:10-11, sets a tone of joyful anticipation of the Easter mystery, as does the permitted use of rose-colored vestments. Likewise, instruments may be played at Mass and the altar may be decorated with flowers.

All Fridays during Lent are days of abstinence from meat. Fasting prescribes that only one full meal be taken. Two smaller meals may be taken to maintain strength, but these taken should not equal another full meal. Fasting obliges from the 18th to the 59th birthday. Abstinence forbids the eating of meat. Abstinence obliges from the 14th birthday on. Good Friday is a day of fasting and abstinence from meat.

Instant Lottery tickets sought for March: please deposit them in the collection basket. We do this as a means of reducing expenses for our Picnic lottery stand. Thank you!

Donations of liquor are still being accepted until the picnic!

Eucharistic Holy Hour for the Needs of our Church and the World: all the Faithful are urged to spend an hour each week in our church praying before Our Lord's True Presence reserved in the Tabernacle. Make a visit during the posted hours. Pray the rosary, fast and make reparation for a quick end to the pandemic.

The Stations of the Cross booklets will be available near the church entrance. You are invited to make a private visit to the church during the hours that it is open and pray the Stations of the Cross on your own. Simply take one of the booklets and walk from station to station reciting the prayers silently.

Pray the St. Michael Prayer during this time of pestilence: *St. Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle, be our protection against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him we humbly pray; and do thou, O Prince of the Heavenly host, by the power of God, cast into hell Satan and all the evil spirits who prowl about the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.*

The Parish Flea Market will be tentatively held on May 2/3 in the church hall. Items that will be accepted include household items, toys, holiday decorations, and more. Please note that electronics and clothing will not be accepted. We will still be collecting items from March 21 – April 22 in the church hall. All proceeds benefit our parish Building Fund.

An American Red Cross Blood Drive will be held in our church hall on Tuesday, May 19. Please save the date! We will be in communication with the American Red Cross in the weeks ahead should the need to reschedule the blood drive occur.

Our next picnic meeting will be held Wednesday, April 22, at 6:30 p.m. in the church hall. All are invited to attend! Should the need arise, we will reschedule this meeting to a later date.

Requiescat in pace: please pray for the peaceful repose of the soul of Francis Tokash who was recently buried from our church.

HNS 300 Club Raffle Winners – Congratulations to the following March 15 winners! 1st Award of \$100 – Tony Centrella, 2nd Award of \$50 – John Bonczek, 3rd Award of \$25 – Ed Smichowski, 4th Award of \$25 – Amy Hoherchak.

Rada Cutlery Fundraiser: Our parish has partnered with Rada Cutlery to offer you their famous knives, kitchen utensils and Quick Mixes. Rada Knives are 100% Made in the USA – construction and materials – and carry a Lifetime Guarantee. *When you order anything from their catalog, our parish receives a monthly check for 40% of all sales that have been obtained via the link on our parish website or through our catalog!* All proceeds benefit our parish Building Fund. There are two ways to order – online or via the printed catalog. Please follow these instructions so that our church receives credit for your purchases:

Online: Parishioners are asked to access Rada via the homepage of the parish website (www.sacredheartdupont.com) and click on the tab that says “Order Here.” The first time you click on the tab, a box will come up asking “Do you want your order to support Sacred Heart of Jesus Church?” Click “YES” and then you will be taken to the Rada Cutlery website where you can view and order their products. In order for the parish to receive a commission on any online sale, orders must be made via this tab on the website. When ordering online, payment is made directly to Rada and the order will be delivered to your home.

Catalog: Color catalogs are available for those who do not have internet access and orders can be placed at the parish office. Payment for orders made in person are due at the time the order is placed. Payment may be made in cash or by check made out to Sacred Heart of Jesus Church. All orders placed in this manner will be delivered to the office and not to the individual’s home. When the shipment has been received, the buyer will be notified that their items are ready for pick-up.

Palms for Palm Sunday: as we approach Palm Sunday on April 5, please know that if the current situation of banning public Masses endures, Fr. Petro will bless the palms privately and have them available for parishioners when they make their private visit to church that weekend. Likewise, if conditions necessitate, he will bless the Easter food baskets on Holy Saturday outdoors, asking the Faithful to maintain a safe distance from one another.

The Dupont Lions food distribution will be held at the Dupont Borough building on Thur., Mar. 26., 3-5 p.m. All people in need are welcome.

JMJ Catholic Radio is the only Catholic radio station in the Scranton Diocese. There are four locations from which they broadcast; Wilkes-Barre/Scranton at 98.9FM & 750AM, Hazelton at 1490AM & 100.1FM and Dushore at 91.7FM. Listening is an excellent way to deepen and learn the Catholic Faith. You are invited to tune in at 3pm to pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet in song with the Marianist Fathers from Stockbridge, Massachusetts.

REMEMBER HIS WILL IN YOURS – You can express your commitment to our parish by making a bequest to Sacred Heart Church. Simply include the following statement in your will: “I LEAVE TO SACRED HEART OF JESUS CHURCH, DUPONT, PA, THE SUM OF \$ _____ (or _____% of the residue of my estate) for its religious, educational and charitable works.” *May God abundantly bless you for bequeathing a spiritual legacy to your parish family!*

Spiritual Adoption Prayer: Do you believe in the power of prayer? You can save a pre-born baby at risk of being aborted by simply praying. Spiritual adoption was first introduced by the late Archbishop Fulton Sheen. To spiritually adopt a baby at risk of being aborted, simply make a pledge to pray daily for a child for 9 months. God will assign you a child known only to Him. You can use Archbishop Sheen’s prayer: *Jesus, Mary and Joseph, I love you very much. I beg you to spare the life of the unborn child that I have spiritually adopted who is in danger of abortion.* At the end of 9 months you can donate a gift to a pregnancy care center for a mother in need who has chosen life.

After practicing Roman Catholics, the second largest religious grouping in our country is “fallen-away” Catholics, i.e., those who rarely or no longer practice the Faith. A website has been created to assist those who wish to become active Catholics once again: www.catholicscomehome.org. If you want to “come home” or know someone who needs some encouragement to do so, visit this site for some inspiration.

Local Outreach Services

AA Helpline: 1-800-640-7545

Al Anon: 1-800-339-9006

Bread Basket of NEPA: 570-343-2324

Greater Pittston Food Pantry: 570-654-9923

Birthright of Scranton: 570-961-1133

Rachel’s Vineyard Post-Abortive Healing: 1-877-467-3463

Monday (Mar. 23) St. Turibius of Mogrovejo

(Private Mass) Faye Renfer

by Amy and John Renfer

Tuesday (Mar. 24) Lenten Weekday

(Private Mass) Geraldine Godula

by Stanley and Maureen Knick

Wednesday (Mar. 25) The Annunciation of the Lord

(Private Mass) Ronald Exter

by his wife, Helen, and family

Thursday (Mar. 26) Lenten Weekday

(Private Mass) Denise Dulny

by Donna Addley

Friday (Mar. 27) Lenten Weekday

(Private Mass) Stephen Mazur

by his children, Michael, Stephen and Maria

Saturday (Mar. 28) Vigil: Fifth Sunday of Lent

(Private Mass) Shirley Kolankiewicz

by her daughter and husband Renee and Chris Renfer

Sunday (Mar. 29) Fifth Sunday of Lent

(Private Mass) Our Parishioners (*Missa pro populo*)

(Private Mass) Dr. David Rosa

by Ronald and MaryAnn Rinaldi

WEEKLY OFFERING

Last Sunday: \$3,685.00

Building Fund: \$230.00

May the Lord reward your generosity.

The sanctuary candles burn this week in memory of:

Tabernacle: *Theresa Gayza, by Marian Wanielista*

Blessed Mother: *Marita Keating, by Ron and Sharon Ziobro and family*

St. Joseph: *Hank Klimek, by his family*

St. Therese: *Louise Collins, by Arlene and Margaret and in honor of:*

St. Francis: *Kristin Lacey, by Barbara Antal.*

UPCOMING EVENTS

Mar. 16- , All parochial communal events are cancelled until further notice.

Mar. 21-Apr. 22: flea market donations accepted, church hall

The Wyoming Valley Chapter of Pennsylvanians for Human Life have been providing practical and compassionate help for 30 years to mothers to help them choose life for their babies. Their Pro-Life Center, located at 31 Hanover St., Wilkes-Barre, and which is open Monday through Friday, 10 am to 3 pm, serves as a crisis pregnancy center. They offer confidential counseling and give and loan baby supplies. Their Center is stocked with free pamphlets, books and CDs for public use. Their website: www.prolifeluzernecounty.com. They are looking for new volunteers to assist them in their pro-life work. Please call them at 570-826-1819 if you would like to be of service.

The Diocese of Scranton offers compassionate counseling in a safe, comfortable environment where your privacy is always respected. Counseling is about self-discovery and can be used for personal growth or when distressing conditions exist and you need a bit of extra support. Anyone who struggles with anxiety, depression, grief and loss, life transitions or a variety of emotional or psychological conditions is welcome. Catholic Social Services accepts Medicaid plans and some insurance plans and is made affordable for everyone. For more information or to make an appointment, call (570) 207-2283.

Holy Rosary School in Duryea always welcomes new students in grades preschool through grade 8. For details, call the school office at 570-457-2553 or visit www.holyrosaryduryea.org to learn how Holy Rosary School could be the right choice for your child. Tuition assistance is available.

A Great Resource for Catholic Married Couples and for Catholic Families! (www.foryourmarriage.org) This website is a fantastic resource. Daily marriage tips, articles on pressing issues relating to marriage, parenting, courting, careers, finances, etc. Check this site out for the holiness of your own marriage.

Sacramental Sponsors: If you are asked to be a sponsor for Confirmation or a godparent for a Baptism, you must: be a registered, participating member of Sacred Heart, have received all Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, First Eucharist and Confirmation), and if married, be married in the Catholic Church. If you have a question about your eligibility or are in need of a sponsor form, you may contact the parish office.