

Sacred Heart of Jesus Church

215 Lackawanna Avenue, Dupont, Pennsylvania 18641

Phone: (570) 654-3713 ~ E-mail: shojesuschurch@gmail.com ~ www.sacredheartdupont.com

Rev. Father Thomas J. Petro, J.C.L., KCHS, 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.

✠ The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph ♦ December 26, 2021 ✠

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

The Parochial Pen

My dear parishioners,

We mark our 120th anniversary as a parish of the Diocese of Scranton in 2022. At Christmastime in 1902, the late Very Rev. Msgr. Stanislaus Szpotanski celebrated the First Holy Sacrifice of the Mass at Sacred Heart of Jesus Church in Dupont. To celebrate this historic anniversary year, an anonymous donor has provided funds for the creation of a new work of art in our church. Two beautiful angels have been painted on the wall on either side of the large stained glass window in the choir loft. Robert Ritterbeck, and his son, Ryan, of Moosic, have created these original works of art for our church. The father and son team began work on Monday of this week and completed their project in just three days. These musical angels are depicted playing musical instruments, one, a trumpet, and another, a harp. They are inspired by the angels participating joyously in the heavenly liturgy as described in the Book of Revelation. The two angel statues in our sanctuary, as well as the two angel statues in our choir loft, provided the stylistic models for the murals. These beautiful murals are hand painted in such a way as to make them appear three dimensional; the angels seem to burst forth from their gothic framed niches, which take their stylistic keys from the niches of our carved wooden altars.

We are grateful to the donor who was their patron as well as the artists who were their creators. We pray that our earthly musicians who serve so well in our choir loft may gain inspiration and guidance from these representations of their heavenly counterparts. May we, too, be inspired by their beauty so as to remember that by our participation at Mass, especially by our singing, we give praise and honor to God, the Creator of all things. On this Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph, may we find comfort and joy in this lovely dwelling place of the Lord and know that we are called by God to be a holy family of Faith under the one roof of His Church.

“Bless the Lord, you angels of the Lord; sing praise to him and highly exalt him forever.” (Daniel 3:59)

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Father Petro

Annual Blessing of Families: On Sunday, December 26, the Church celebrates the Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph. As we do each year on this feast, those attending the Mass will receive a special blessing as individuals or as families after the General Intercessions. Simply remain in the pew for a brief blessing.

Fr. Petro wishes to thank the parishioners from Sacred Heart of Jesus Church who were so generous in their gift giving and Christmas card sending. “I am deeply touched by the spirit of generosity so evident among so many of our people. Thank you for making this a very memorable Christmas! I thank also the members of our music apostolate and church decorators whose kind work added so much to our Christmas celebration.”

PRAYER FOR THE HOUSEHOLD

Exaudi nos – May be recited by the family on New Year’s Day:
“Hear us, Lord, and send your angel from heaven to visit and protect, to comfort and defend all who live in this house. Amen.”

A New Year Blessing: “You enter this church as a guest of God, your heavenly Father. Come with joy in your heart and thanks on your lips into His presence. Be grateful to the faithful who, in Jesus’ Name, built this place of worship, and to all who have beautified and hallowed it with their prayers and praise. Ask His blessing on those who love His house of faith as the inspiration of their labor, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit, and may that blessing rest on you in the New Year.”

On the Solemnity of the Epiphany there is an ancient custom of announcing the dates of Easter and other movable feasts for the coming year. This custom originated in the age when calendars were not readily available for much of the population. Next Sunday, the Epiphany Proclamation will take place after the proclamation of the Gospel. As this ancient announcement is read, simply be seated and listen to descriptions of the celebration of the central mysteries of our faith.

First Saturday is January 1. It is very important in these times to pray the Rosary, meditate for 15 minutes on the Mysteries, and make sacramental confession and Communion in reparation for sins and blasphemies against Mary’s Immaculate Heart. A Eucharistic Holy Hour will be held on Saturday, Jan. 1, from 2:45 to 3:45 pm in our church. All are invited to pray in preparation for the 4 pm Mass.

Free 2022 liturgical calendars are now available in the narthex. Every Catholic household should have one!

Anyone wishing to add to their 2021 contributions may do so by January 2, 2022. Requests for 2021 Contribution Statements can be made by contacting Kathy at the parish office. These statements may be used for your tax purposes.

The *Te Deum*, “You are God: We Praise You,” is an ancient hymn of thanksgiving and praise to God. The Church grants a plenary indulgence to the Christian faithful who publicly recite this hymn on the last day of the year. The *Te Deum* will be sung in our church following Holy Communion at the 4 p.m. Mass on December 31.

The Knights and Dames of the Scranton Section of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem will assist at the 4p.m. Vigil Mass for the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God on Dec. 31.

CCM Corporate Communion Mass will be celebrated on Sun., Jan. 2, at 8:30 am. Members are invited to wear their pins and sit in the front pews near the BVM side altar. They will pray the rosary in common prior to the Mass. At Mass, the Confraternity of Christian Mothers will give their annual fundraising donation for the parish to Father. Our CCM will not be holding their annual Wafer Dinner this year due to coronavirus concerns.

2021-22 HOLY DAY MASS SCHEDULE

(Feast of Holy Family) *Sunday, Dec. 26:* 8:30 & 10:30 a.m.

(Mary, Mother of God) *Friday, Dec. 31:* 4:00 p.m.

Saturday, Jan 1: 9:00 a.m.

(Epiphany) *Saturday, Jan 1:* 4:00 p.m.

Sunday, Jan. 2: 8:30 & 10:30 a.m.

Holy water will be blessed at the 4:00 pm Vigil Mass of the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, Saturday, January 8. The Sprinkling Rite will be used in place of the Penitential Rite to remind us of our own baptisms at all Masses that weekend. Please bless yourself with the sign of the cross as the priest sprinkles you with holy water at the start of Mass. Please feel free to bring a container to church to take home some of the newly blessed water. The Christmas season ends with the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord.

Raffle tickets for the Holy Name Society “300 Club” are available from any HNS member. The deadline for ticket returns is March 1. Tickets can be dropped in the collection basket in a marked envelope. Drawings will take place during Lent.

*Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish extends a warm welcome to all visitors and new parishioners in the parish.
Happy New Year to all!*

✠ MASS INTENTIONS ✠

Keep in mind the men and women who are serving in our military forces around the world. Our prayers go to them and their families during this Holy Season. May the Holy Family watch over us all.

Our Parish Office will be closed Thur., Dec. 30 and Fri., Dec. 31 in observance of New Year's. It will open Mon., Jan. 3 at 8:30 a.m.

Requiescant in pace: please pray for the peaceful repose of the souls of Richard Lyons and Edward Kobylus, who were recently buried from our church.

A **"New Sock Drive"** is being sponsored by our 6th grade CCD class to supply homeless men with new socks during winter. It runs until January 2. Any size or color men's socks may be deposited in either the bin in the church narthex or the bin in the Sunday school.

If you have moved in the past year, have a new phone number, or e-mail address, please let us know so our records will be up-to-date by contacting the Parish Office.

Polish Christmas Music CDs have been created by our organist, Professor Anthony George! This musical album includes a variety of our favorite Polish language Christmas carols. It was recorded in our very own church and produced locally. Our Lent and Easter CD, as well as our Sacred Latin Chant CD, will also be offered for sale for \$15 each. You can buy a set of all three for \$40. They make a great gift! This is a fundraiser for our parish Building Fund. Please see Tony George if you would like to purchase one. Of special note: our Gregorian Chant CD is comprised of selections from every season of the 1962 liturgical year, including the 4 solemn Marian compline antiphons and the "O" antiphons of Advent.

2022 Children's Envelopes are now available for pick-up in the church narthex for those who have requested them. Please find the boxed envelope set labeled with their name. If your child's name is not found or you are new to the parish and would like them to receive envelopes, please contact the parish secretary.

The Polish custom of kolęda, or the annual blessing of homes, will soon begin again in our parish. This is a pastoral visitation to your home by the priest which takes place during January, usually near the Solemnity of the Epiphany. Those who have submitted requests to have their home blessed will be contacted in the days ahead.

The annual dues for membership in our parish's Confraternity of Christian Mothers and Holy Name Society are collected during the month of January. Please make use of your labeled contribution envelope in the mailing. All dues are deposited directly into each organization's account.

Sanctuary candle offerings for the Tabernacle, St. Joseph, the Blessed Mother, St. Francis and St. Therese are available for \$10. Please make use of the donation envelopes and the registry book in the narthex.

The monthly Church Dues for our parish will remain \$6 per person, per month in 2021. This amount is printed on the front exterior of the pink colored dues envelopes. All parishioners are reminded of their obligation to support their parish financially according to their means.

Our Rada Cutlery fundraiser continues, offering you their famous knives, kitchen utensils, baking pans and Quick Mixes. 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! You are invited to access Rada via the parish website (www.sacredheartdupont.com) and click on the tab that says "Order Here."

Parish families are needed to bring up the gifts of bread and wine in the offertory procession for the weekend Masses. Would you consider accepting this honor? *At least two volunteers are needed at each of the weekend Masses.* The ushers will continue to bring up the collection basket. Please go to the back of the church as soon as the ushers begin taking up the collection (this helps to expedite things without unnecessary delay!). You may place your offertory envelope directly into the main collection basket. Pick up the ciborium and the cruet from the table and wait near the front entrance to the church. As soon as the ushers return from collecting the contributions, walk down the aisle behind the usher carrying the basket. Upon approaching the sanctuary, give the priest the gifts, then bow to the altar once the priest moves to return to the altar. Return to your pew by walking back down a side aisle. Perhaps you could volunteer at a Mass that is being offered for a family member? To volunteer, simply notify one of the ushers before the Mass.

Monday (Dec. 27) St. John the Evangelist

7:30 am Stanley Barnak, Sr.
by family

Tuesday (Dec. 28) The Holy Innocents

No Mass

Wednesday (Dec. 29) Fifth Day within the Octave of Christmas

No Mass

Thursday (Dec. 30) Sixth Day within the Octave of Christmas

No Mass

Friday (Dec. 31) Vigil: Mary, the Holy Mother of God

4:00 pm Theresa Cebula
by Christine, Diane, Elaine and Maureen

Saturday (Jan. 1) Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God

9:00 am Anna Sroka
by Thomas and Dorothy Sheridan and family

Vigil: The Epiphany of the Lord

4:00 pm Rita Jones
by the Mackin family

Sat. (Jan. 2) The Epiphany of the Lord

8:30 am John Tetlak
by children, John, Ronald and Judith
10:30 am Our Parishioners (*Missa pro populo*)

WEEKLY OFFERING

Last Sunday: \$3,693.00

Building Fund: \$224.00

May the Lord reward your generosity.

The sanctuary candles burn this week in memory of:
Tabernacle: *Eva Stonikinis, by Tim and Patti Stonikinis*
Blessed Mother: *Kay and Carl Rheinschmidt, by daughter & family*
St. Joseph: *Frank Tokash, by children*
St. Therese: *Bonnie Morreale, AnnMarie Devlin*
St. Francis: *Leonard, Marlene and Richard Milewski, by family*
❖
The offertory gifts of bread & wine this Sunday are donated in memory of Edward Pistack, by family.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Jan. 1, 2:45-3:45pm, 1st Saturday Adoration/devotions, church
Jan. 5, 7pm, Holy Name Society meeting, church hall
Jan. 6, 6:30pm, Choir practice, choir loft
Jan. 9, 9:15-10:15am, CCD classes resume
Jan. 9, 10:30am, CCD Mass, grade 5 assists

Liturgical Volunteer Schedule

December 26

8:30am: EM: J. LaFratte, Lector: J. Roche, Acolyte: J. LaFratte

10:30am: EM: D. Suchecki, Lector: G. Beccaloni, Acolyte: C. Purdy

December 31-January 1: Mary, Mother of God

4pm: EM: C. Wesley, Lector: K. Vojta, Acolyte: J. Bingham

9:00am: EM: M. Pistack, Lector: J. T. Satkowski, Acolyte: E. & J. Lyons

January 1-2: The Epiphany of the Lord

4pm: EM: B. Purdy, Lector: S. Bartosiewicz, Acolyte: C. Purdy

8:30am: EM: J. Stanco, Lector: H. Vogue, Acolyte: J. Stanco

10:30am: EM: J. LaFratte, Lector: A. Devlin, Acolyte: J. LaFratte

2021 Diocesan Annual Appeal: Please consider giving. Our Goal: \$30,000. Raised to date: \$13,846.00.

~ Pope Pius IX's Prayer before the Crib ~

I adore You, O Word Incarnate, true Son of God from all eternity, and true Son of Mary ever Virgin in the fullness of time. When I adore your divine Person, and the Humanity united to your Divinity, I venerate the poor manger which welcomed You when an Infant, and which was truly the throne of your love. I prostrate myself before it with the simplicity of the shepherds, with the faith of Joseph, with the love of Mary. I bow down in veneration of this precious memorial of our salvation with the same spirit of mortification, poverty and humility with which You, though the Lord of heaven and earth, did choose for yourself a manger wherein to lay your tender infant limbs. And You, O Lord, who in your Infancy did deign to lay yourself in this manger, vouchsafe also to pour into my heart a drop of that joy to which the sight of your lovely Childhood, and the miracles which accompanied your Birth, gave rise. By that holy Birth, I now implore You to grant to all the world peace and goodwill, and in the name of the whole human race I render thanks and honor to God the Father, and to God the Holy Spirit, who with You live and reign one God world without end. Amen.