

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.

✠ **Second Sunday in Ordinary Time** ♦ **January 16, 2022** ✠

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

The Parochial Pen

My dear parishioners,

At the beginning of a new year, it is natural to look towards the future. For the last several years, the Diocese of Scranton and its churches have been focused on the future with a pastoral planning initiative called the “Vision 2030 Blueprint Process.” Vision 2030 will help our diocese meet the many opportunities and challenges of the coming decade. The main goal of Vision 2030 is to create vibrant parishes rooted in the life of Jesus Christ.

This weekend, we invite everyone to learn more about the current realities we face together, by picking up a copy of the Vision 2030 booklet here in the church. All of this information is also available in this week’s Catholic Light newspaper and is on the Diocese of Scranton’s website. Because of our Baptism, each one of us has an important role to play in the Church. The participation of each one of us is critical to proclaiming the Good News of the Gospel and sharing the love of Jesus Christ. Please take some time to read through the Vision 2030 document and pray for this process as we work to keep our Church a strong and vibrant beacon of hope for all.

Sincerely yours in Christ,
Father Petro

The Christmas Crib remains in our church until Candlemas. It can be found near the BVM side altar. Falling exactly 40 days after Christmas, Candlemas was observed as the official end of Christmas in medieval times. In some countries it is not unusual to retain some Christmas decorations until Candlemas on Feb. 2. Pope St. John Paul II would make his last visit to the crib in St. Peter’s Square after celebrating the evening Mass on Feb. 2. After this visit the Nativity scene was dismantled. Consider making a visit to our crib this year!

The Church celebrates the solemn *Feast of the Presentation of the Lord* on Feb. 2. This feast recalls the day on which Jesus Christ was presented in the temple by Mary and Joseph. This feast, also commemorated as the Fourth Joyful Mystery of the Rosary, celebrates Jesus as the Light of revelation to all the nations. According to ancient tradition, candles are blessed on this day, both those used in the church and the home. In accordance with the liturgy for the day, special candles will be blessed at Mass for the faithful to take home and use. Families have customarily lit them at the table for Easter and Christmas dinner, for sacramental visits of Holy Communion and Holy Anointing, and for blessed protection in lightning storms and power outages. The candles will be blessed in a special ritual with a procession at the 7:30 a.m. Mass on Wednesday, Feb. 2. The blessed candles may be obtained after the Mass for a donation of \$4 for a box of two “Candlemas” candles.

The Church celebrates the *Feast of St. Blaise* on Feb. 3. He was bishop of Sebaste in Armenia in the fourth century. Before being martyred, he is said to have healed a boy who was choking. His is venerated today as the patron of those who suffer from diseases of the throat. Using candles blessed the day before at the Mass of the Presentation of the Lord, the faithful will be blessed through the intercession of St. Blaise. Throats will be blessed after Mass on Feb. 3 and the weekend of Feb. 5/6.

Requiescat in pace: please pray for the repose of the soul of Msgr. Alexander T. Kulik, a Scranton diocesan priest and native son of our parish, who was recently buried in our cemetery. Also, please pray for Thomas Skrzysowski who was buried from our church.

Catholic Teaching on Cremation: Cremation of the body quickly reduces the body to about four to ten pounds of bone fragments. The Church requires that these remains of the body be placed in a respectful vessel and treated in the exact same way that a family would treat a body in a casket. Since the human body has an eternal destiny in any form, the Church requires that cremated remains of a body be buried or entombed immediately after the Funeral in the same timely manner as a body. Cremated remains of a loved one are not to be scattered, kept at home or divided into other vessels among family members, just as it is clear that these practices would desecrate a body in a casket.

Parishioners who donated cookies to the recent Cookie Walk are invited to pick up their plastic containers in the church hall.

Pope St. John Paul II Cemetery Chapel: now that the damaged ceiling tiles have been replaced in our cemetery chapel, it is once again open for use. The committal rite prior to interment may be celebrated here, as well as funeral liturgies with a small congregation. Mass is celebrated here every Memorial Day and All Souls Day.

Now that the Christmas season has ended, families who have loved ones buried at our Sacred Heart Cemetery are kindly asked to remove all Christmas wreaths, decorations, etc. from their graves.

First Saturday is Feb. 5. 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, Feb. 5, from 2:45 to 3:45 pm in our church. All are invited to pray in preparation for the 4 pm Mass.

If your child attends Catholic school and is anticipated to receive the Sacraments of First Penance (March 5) and First Communion (May 1) or Confirmation (June 5), be sure they are registered in our CCD program.

Requests for 2021 Contribution Statements for tax purposes can be made by contacting Kathy at the parish office.

The Lord’s Real Presence: We are fortunate to worship in a church in which the Body of Christ is reserved. It is right to acknowledge the Lord’s Real Presence with a brief act of worship on entering or leaving the church and every time passing by the sanctuary. Normally, a genuflection in the direction of the Tabernacle is enough. One who is physically unable to genuflect may substitute a profound bow at the waist.

If you are divorced, please speak to Fr. Petro about petitioning for a marriage annulment. All Catholics who marry and divorce must obtain a decree of nullity before attempting marriage again. A civil decree of divorce does not dissolve the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony. All Catholics are bound to marry before a priest in church for the marriage to be valid, even if they are marrying a non-Catholic. Catholics may not be admitted to the sacraments upon attempting marriage outside the church. They may be admitted to the sacraments once again after receiving an annulment and having their attempted marriage blessed by the Church. Annulments are now FREE, i.e., no payment is necessary.

Engaged? Couples planning to marry in our church should meet with Fr. Petro before making any other wedding plans. To prepare well for the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony, this meeting should take place at least 6 months to a year before the anticipated wedding date.

Our parish is in need of more lectors and altar servers. More Eucharistic ministers are needed to visit the homebound and altar pappies to serve weekday Mass. If you believe that God is calling you to serve your brothers and sisters, please speak to Fr. Petro.

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

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.

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.

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.

The monthly Church Dues for our parish will remain \$6 per person, per month in 2022. 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 parish adult choir and cantors practice on Thursdays at 6:30 pm in the church choir loft. New members are encouraged to attend - contact Tony George, music director, if you are interested.

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.”

Please consider sponsoring one of the five candles in our church sanctuary for a week in 2022. A perpetual candle burns near the Tabernacle to signify the repose of the True Presence of Jesus Christ. Candles also burn before the statues of the Blessed Mother, St. Joseph, St. Therese and St. Francis. Your sponsorship of \$10 for a week not only covers the expense of these candles, but allows you the opportunity to attach a specific prayer intention to their offering, much like you would a votive candle lit in church. Please write your intention and requested date in the book in the narthex and send your donation to the Parish Office. Also, the book for 2022 Mass intentions for our parish is open in the office. The Mass intention stipend is \$10.

During winter months our health is always a concern and we need to take precautions. Regarding the Sign of Peace, you are asked to please use your common sense. If you are not feeling well or are taking medicine for the flu, a cold, etc., a nod of the head with a smile or just a kind word is sufficient if you do not wish to shake hands. Thank you for your understanding.

We are happy to welcome to our parish Eric Petrini of Pittston. A warm welcome to you!

An Act of Spiritual Communion to be recited by those unable to receive Holy Communion: “My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love you above all things, and I desire to receive you into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace you as already there and unite myself wholly to you. Never permit me to be separated from you. Amen.”

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.

The Order of Alhambra Scholarship provides financial aid to college students pursuing careers in education for persons with disabilities and are granted on the basis that applicants are dedicated to the field of special education. Eligibility guidelines include undergraduate juniors and seniors enrolled in qualifying programs; and master’s degree and community college students specializing in special education studies who have accrued half of the required graduation credits. For information on further requirements and to obtain an application, contact Ada Magni at amagni@earthlink.net. Application deadline is Feb. 23.

Monday (Jan. 17) St. Anthony the Abbot

7:30 am Michael and Betty Casey
by Betty Belles

Tuesday (Jan. 18) Weekday

7:30 am Joseph Skrzysowski
by son, Paul

Wednesday (Jan. 19) Weekday

7:30 am Vincent Kashuba
by the Purdy family

Thursday (Jan. 20) St. Sebastian

7:30 am Faye Chmiel
by Kathy and Joe Niznik

Friday (Jan. 21) St. Agnes

7:30 am John Bartush, Jr.
by sisters, MaryAnn Ruane and Barbara Vitale

Saturday (Jan. 22) Vigil: Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

4:00 pm Frances and Joseph Stoshick
by brother

Sunday (Jan. 23) Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:30 am Our Parishioners (*Missa pro populo*)
10:30 am Margaret Kearns
by Jayne Klenner and Ava Moore

WEEKLY OFFERING
Last Sunday: \$6,550.00
Building Fund: \$1,722.40
Care and Education of Priests: \$384.00
May the Lord reward your generosity.

The sanctuary candles burn this week in memory of:
Tabernacle: Henry & Amelia Ziobro, by Ron & Sharon Ziobro and family
Blessed Mother: Steve & Loretta Haluschak, by Michele & Brian Moletsky
St. Joseph: Richard Antal, by wife, Barbara
St. Therese: Delphine Tokash, by children
St. Francis: Mary Guzzi, by Jerry and Lynn Stanco

❖
The offertory gifts of bread & wine this Sunday are donated in memory of John and Cassie Lopata, by sons.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Jan. 20, 6:30pm, Choir practice, choir loft
Jan. 23, 9:30am, Confirmation parents meeting, school
Jan. 27, 6:30pm, Choir practice, choir loft
Feb. 1, 12:30pm, CCM meeting, church hall

Liturgical Volunteer Schedule
January 15-16
4pm: EM: M. Pistack, Lector: S. Bartosiewicz, Acolyte: E. & J. Lyons
8:30am: EM: J. Stanco, Lector: H. Vogue, Acolyte: J. Stanco
10:30am: EM: C. Wesley, Lector: T. Satkowski, Acolyte: M. McDonald, JJ Rupprecht
January 22-23
4pm: EM: J. LaFratte, Lector: A. Devlin, Acolyte: J. LaFratte
8:30am: EM: J. Stanco, Lector: J. Roche, Acolyte: A., E. & M. Collins
10:30am: EM: D. Suchecki, Lector: G. Beccaloni, Acolyte: M. McDonald, JJ Rupprecht

A Vigil Mass for Life will be held at 6 p.m. on Thurs., Jan. 20, at St. Maria Goretti Church, 42 Redwood Drive, Laflin, with Bishop Bambera as the celebrant. All are welcome to attend on the eve of the 48th annual March for Life to pray for an end to the evil of abortion. Those attending are invited to bring a new pack of diapers to be donated to Shepherd’s Maternity House and St. Joseph’s Center Baby and Children’s Pantry.

Synod on Synodality: the Scranton Diocese invites parishioners to complete an online survey at www.dioceseofscranton.org as part of the local listening phase of the 2023 Synod of Bishops.

Did you know... that if you are 70½ or older and have a traditional individual retirement account, you can use all or part of your required minimum distribution to support your parish without having to count transfers as income for federal tax purposes. Distributions must be sent directly to your parish by the plan administrator of your IRA. For more information, contact Fr. Petro.

Thank you for silencing your mobile phones and refraining from texting while in church.