

Sacred Heart of Jesus Church

215 Lackawanna Avenue, Dupont, Pennsylvania 18641

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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 Baptism of the Lord ♦ January 9, 2022 ✠

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

The Parochial Pen

My dear parishioners,

Today we celebrate the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord. The sinless human nature of Christ did not need baptism. Christ underwent baptism in His human nature only because He needed to set us an example, to undergo all that we must undergo in order to be worthy of the Kingdom of God. Today's feast is the joyful conclusion of the Christmas season. It is now appropriate to take down your Christmas decorations at home. Following the 10:30 a.m. Mass this Sunday, as is our custom, I invite the parishioners to come forward and take home with them the red and pink poinsettias, leaving the white ones as sanctuary decorations for a few more weeks of winter Ordinary Time. Perhaps you enjoy the challenge of keeping your "church poinsettia" alive in your house for many weeks or even months. Some of you may even be fortunate enough to keep your poinsettia alive long enough to enjoy next Christmas. To those who want to try their hand at poinsettia care, I now share with you the following maintenance tips:

When you bring your poinsettia home with its healthy green leaves and bright red bracts, it may soon show some stress signs by yellowing a few of its leaves. Just pluck those leaves off and all will be well. Give it as much light as you can, and let the soil get somewhat dry before watering again. This is a tropical plant, and it doesn't like cold weather, so keep the plant warm. It will start to go dormant in January - this is the point when most people throw it out. Keep caring for it as usual, giving it plenty of light and watering as usual. As we get into springtime, slow down the watering and let it stay dry for longer periods of time. When the stems start to shrivel up a little bit, go ahead and cut the whole plant back to just a few inches, and store it somewhere cool.

Starting in mid-summer, take it out, submerge it in a bucket of water, wash off as much of the old soil as you can, and then repot it into the same container using nice fresh potting soil. Put it on your shady porch, water it, give it some nice fertilizer and treat it like you would any other potted plant. As it grows, pinch the stems to encourage branching.

Now here's the interesting part. When you get to early October, you need to trick it into producing the colored bracts, and you do that by giving it alternating darkness and light. So at 5 pm put it in an absolutely dark closet, and then at 8 am bring it back out into the light. Do this each day, and the plant will soon think it's the time of year to "flower" and will start producing those beautiful red bracts. A gardener feels a great sense of accomplishment in forcing a poinsettia, and I recommend everyone do it at least once, if only for the fun experience.

Sincerely yours in Christ,
Father Petro

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.

Christmas "undecorating" - As we enter into winter Ordinary Time, volunteer help is needed on Sunday, Jan. 9, after the 10:30 a.m. Mass to help take down the Christmas decorations.

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 Confraternity of Christian Mothers of our parish recently presented a check in the amount of \$11,700 to Fr. Petro at the 8:30 a.m. Mass last Sunday. This money represents the majority of the proceeds from their annual fundraising efforts. Fr. Petro is most grateful to the officers and members of the CCM for making this very generous donation. The total of this donation will be applied to our new natural gas furnaces. *Thank you so much, ladies!*

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.

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

If you are divorced, please speak to Fr. Petro about petitioning for a marriage annulment. All Catholics who marry in a valid sacramental union 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.

2022 Sacred Heart of Jesus Cemetery fees:

Single grave purchase - \$850.

Internment fees - Casket - \$750 *Saturday burial an additional \$100

Cremation - \$350 *Saturday burial an additional \$100

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.

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.

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.

Our 6th grade CCD students and catechist Harry Lyons thank everyone who donated to the “New Sock Drive.” All of the socks were given to the homeless at Mother Teresa’s Haven.

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.

Are you registered in our parish? If you are not receiving mail from the parish, chances are you are not registered. You are free to stop by the Parish Office to become a registered parishioner of Sacred Heart of Jesus Church. Parish registration is required to be a baptismal godparent or a confirmation sponsor.

Polish Christmas Music CDs have been recorded in our very own church and produced locally. This musical album includes a variety of our favorite Polish language Christmas carols. Our Lent and Easter CD, as well as our Sacred Latin Chant CD, are also for sale for \$15 each. You can buy a set of all three for \$40. This is a fundraiser for our parish Building Fund. These CDs can be purchased by contacting Tony George.

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.”

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.

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.

~ Pray the Spiritual Devotions of our Parish ~

The Rosary of the Blessed Virgin Mary is prayed in common before Masses.

The Chaplet of the Divine Mercy is prayed in common weekday at 6:45 am and Sundays at 7:45 a.m.

The Perpetual Novena of the Miraculous Medal is prayed in common Mondays after 7:30 a.m. Mass.

Eucharistic Adoration is held on the First Saturday of each month from 2:45 p.m. to 3:45 p.m.

Sacred Heart Devotions are prayed in common after First Friday Masses.

Devotions to the Immaculate Heart of Mary are prayed in common during First Saturday Eucharistic Adoration.

Monday (Jan. 10) Weekday (First Week in Ordinary Time)

7:30 am Helen Golya Szaz
by daughter, Jackie Kmiec

Tuesday (Jan. 11) Weekday

7:30 am Joseph Bartush
by sisters, MaryAnn Ruane and Barbara Vitale

Wednesday (Jan. 12) Weekday

7:30 am Dorothy Trolio
by the CCM of Sacred Heart

Thursday (Jan. 13) St. Hilary

7:30 am Richard and Michael Krappa
by mom and Sandy Mattei

Friday (Jan. 14) Weekday

7:30 am Irene Kivak
by Marie and Stanley Rovinski

Saturday (Jan. 15) Vigil: Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

4:00 pm Joseph Stanco
by Jerry and Lynn Stanco

Sunday (Jan. 16) Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:30 am Edward Yablonski
by children
10:30 am Our Parishioners (*Missa pro populo*)

WEEKLY OFFERING
Last Sunday: \$7,689.00
Building Fund: \$451.00
Mary, Mother of God: \$1,086.00
Christmas: \$5,974.00
May the Lord reward your generosity.

The sanctuary candles burn this week in memory of:
Tabernacle: Joseph F. Skrzysowski, by son, Paul
Blessed Mother: Andrew Smithonic, by Michelina Klimek
St. Joseph: Paul DePrimo, by Debbie, Bruce, Jacob and Sam
St. Therese: John and Cassie Lopata, by sons
St. Francis: Frances Gregoris, by Amy and John Renfer

UPCOMING EVENTS

Jan. 9, 9:15-10:15am, CCD classes resume
 Jan. 9, 10:30am, CCD Mass, grade 5 assists
 Jan. 13, 6:30pm, Choir practice, choir loft

Liturgical Volunteer Schedule

January 8-9

4pm: EM: B. Purdy, Lector: M. Pistack, Acolyte: C. Purdy
8:30am: EM: J. Stanco, Lector: J. Roche, Acolyte: E. & J. Lyons
10:30am: EM: C. Wesley, Lector: CCD, Acolyte: A., E. & M. Collins

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

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 Bambara 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.

The Carpathian Cookery is a 330-page cookbook that includes traditional Slavic recipes, including sections on Christmas, Easter and Lenten foods. The cost of the cookbook is \$14 + \$4 for shipping. To order, send a check for \$18 to Ethnic Craft Club, St. John Byzantine Catholic Church, 201 E. Main St., Uniontown, PA 15401. Call 724-438-6027 for more details.

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.

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.