

# 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.

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## ✠ Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God ♦ January 1, 2023 ✠

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

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The Parochial Pen

My dear parishioners,

As we begin the new year of Our Lord, 2023, I wish to share with you some important news that will be explained further in the near future. Our parish Finance Council met a few months ago to give approval for Bishop Bambera's request that each parish in the Scranton Diocese conduct an increased offertory program in 2023. To my knowledge, our parish has never conducted such a program, so this will be something new for us. I have chosen for our parish, dedicated to the Sacred Heart, the theme of "His Heart, Our Hands" for our program. Over the next few weeks, you will be hearing about our upcoming increased offertory program. This effort is very important as we move forward with the mission and vision of Sacred Heart of Jesus Church. We, as a parish family, have changed so many lives in our community! In order to continue our mission, I encourage all parishioners to spend time in prayer and discussion with your family reflecting on the work we do. Our special Commitment Weekend will be celebrated on January 28 & 29. If you have any questions regarding the "His Heart, Our Hands" Program, please feel free to contact the parish office.

More details about this program will be forthcoming, so watch the bulletin for updates. This year I plan to construct a columbarium in our cemetery for the entombment of urns and pave the parking lot. Please know that it is only through your generous support of your parish that these significant projects have been made possible. By means of your contributions to the Sunday Offering, Building Fund and Cemetery Care envelopes, as well as our fundraisers, especially our annual Picnic, Pierogi Sales, Flea Market, Cookie Walk, and others, we are able to provide for the long-term survival of our parish without incurring any debt. I am personally grateful for your support and generosity. Let's make 2023 a great Year of Our Lord!

Sincerely yours in Christ,  
Father Petro

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**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.

### 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."

### 2022-23 HOLY DAY MASS SCHEDULE

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

Sunday, Jan 1: 8:30 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.

(Epiphany) Saturday, Jan 7: 4:00 p.m.

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

**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."

**Holy water will be blessed** at the 4:00 pm Vigil Mass on Saturday, January 7. 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 on January 9.

**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.

**Our Parish Office** will be closed Mon., Jan. 2 in observance of New Year's. It will open Tue., Jan. 3 at 8:30 a.m.

**The Feast of the Holy Name of Jesus** is Tuesday, January 3. Members of our parish Holy Name Society are encouraged to attend the 7:30 a.m. Mass on that day, their feast day. The HNS will meet Wednesday, January 4 at 7 p.m. in the church hall.

**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.

**CCM Corporate Communion Mass** will be celebrated on Sun., Jan. 8, at 10:30 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. After Mass, the Confraternity of Christian Mothers will gather at noon for their annual Wafer Dinner at Petro's Iron Skillet Restaurant, Grove St., Dupont, and present their fundraising donation for the parish to Father.

**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 (18 years of age and older), per month in 2023. 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.

**Anyone wishing to add** to their 2022 contributions may do so by January 2, 2023. Requests for 2022 Contribution Statements can be made by contacting Kathy at the parish office. These statements may be used for your tax purposes.

**The Memorial of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton** is celebrated on Wednesday, Jan. 4. All the faithful will be blessed with her relic at the conclusion of the 7:30 a.m. Mass. Her relic will also be offered for individual veneration after Masses

**CCD News:** There are no classes on Sunday, Jan. 1. Classes will resume on Sunday, Jan. 8.

Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish extends a warm welcome to all visitors and new parishioners in the parish.

Happy New Year to all!

**Congratulations to Ivy Cotter** who recently won first place in the Pittston Knights of Columbus coloring contest!

**Free 2023 liturgical calendars** are also available. Every Catholic household should have one! **Polish Christmas Music CDs** and Sacred Latin Chant CDs created by our organist, Anthony George, are available for sale at \$10 each. Also, **The Cat's Meow Village** wooden cut-outs of our church are being sold for \$10. All of these items are now available in the church narthex.

**Christmas "undecorating"** - As we enter into winter Ordinary Time, volunteer help is needed on Sunday, Jan. 8, after the 10:30 a.m. Mass to help take down the Christmas decorations.

**Raffle tickets for the Holy Name Society "300 Club"** are available from any member. The deadline for ticket returns is Feb. 21. Tickets can be dropped in the collection basket in a marked envelope. Drawings will take place during Lent. **The Match the Daily Number raffle** continues! \$5 gives you ten chances to win by matching your numbers to the PA Lottery Evening Pick 3. The winner with an exact matching set of the Pick 3 (excluding the wild ball) will win \$250. Tickets can be purchased from HNS members.

**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.

**First Saturday** is January 7. 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. 7, from 2:45 to 3:45 pm in our church. All are invited to pray in preparation for the 4 pm Mass.

**Parish Flea Market – volunteers needed!** In Spring we hope to hold a flea market in the church hall. If you have items in good condition that you no longer want or need, you are kindly asked to hold onto them until March, at which time we will begin accepting donations. Items that will be accepted include household items, toys, holiday decorations, and more. Please note that electronics and clothing will not be accepted. *If anyone is interested in helping at this year's flea market, please contact the Parish Office.*

**Need a new gift giving idea?** Try this! What to give that special someone who has everything? How about help for someone who doesn't! You can make a donation to Sacred Heart's Saint Vincent de Paul Society to honor that special someone and at the same time help someone in need. You can also honor a friend or send a memorial for someone who has died. Checks should be made out to *the St. Vincent de Paul Society* with a note attached with the address of that special person. The parish office will send a note of thanks to you and to the recipient of your gift. Send your requests to our parish office.

A **"New Sock Drive"** is being sponsored by our 6<sup>th</sup> grade CCD class to supply homeless men with new socks during winter. It runs until **January 8**. 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.

**The Human Life Center**, 31 Hanover St., Wilkes-Barre, is looking for donations of "layettes," baby lotion, baby shampoo and baby toys that can be given to needy mothers. Their phone: 570-826-1819

**Scranton Mental Health Ministry** at St. Peter's Cathedral, 315 Wyoming Ave., Scranton, hosts a mental health support group for anyone experiencing mental illness. Meetings are held at 10 a.m. on the second and fourth Saturday of the month. The Family Mental Health Group Support meets on the first Tuesday of each month at 6 p.m. Both groups meet in the lower level of the cathedral rectory. For more information, contact Deacon Ed Shoener at 570-344-7231.

**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.

**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.

**Monday (Jan. 2) Sts. Basil the Great & Gregory Nazianzen**

7:30 am Anna Sroka

by Thomas and Dorothy Sheridan

**Tuesday (Jan. 3) The Most Holy Name of Jesus**

7:30 am Leonard Magda

by Elm St. Sportsman's Club

**Wednesday (Jan. 4) St. Elizabeth Ann Seton**

7:30 am Joan Jemiola

by Ed and Sylvia Mozgowiec

**Thursday (Jan. 5) St. John Neumann**

7:30 am Arlene Skrzysowski

by Paul and Rosalie Skrzysowski

**Friday (Jan. 6) St. Andre Bessette (First Friday)**

7:30 am Frances and Joseph Stoshick

by brother

**Saturday (Jan. 7) Vigil: The Epiphany of the Lord**

4:00 pm John Tetlak

by children, John, Ronald and Judith

**Sunday (Jan. 8) The Epiphany of the Lord**

8:30 am Our Parishioners (*Missa pro populo*)

10:30am Living and deceased clergy

by Tina Petcaugh

**WEEKLY OFFERING**

**Last Sunday:** \$4,288.00

**Building Fund:** \$211.00

**Christmas:** \$7,818.00

*May the Lord reward your generosity.*

*The sanctuary candles burn the week of this week in memory of:*

Tabernacle: Helen Haduck, by daughter, Bernadette and granddaughter, Ramona

Blessed Mother: Denise Skrzysowski, by David and Alyssa Skrzysowski

St. Joseph: Bruno Marcellini, by wife, children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren

St. Therese: Richard Belles, Sr., by Betty Belles

St. Francis: Frances and Edward Milewski, by family



*The offertory gifts of bread & wine this Sunday are donated in memory of Margaret Ziobro Milewski, by family.*

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

Jan. 4, 7pm, Holy Name Society meeting, church hall

Jan. 6, 7:30 am, 1<sup>st</sup> Friday Mass and devotions, church

Jan. 7, 2:45-3:45pm, 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday Adoration/devotions, church

Jan. 8, 10:30am Mass, CCD grades 4&5 assist

Jan. 8, 12pm, CCM Wafer Dinner & meeting, Iron Skillet Restaurant

Jan. 12, 6:30pm, Choir practice, choir loft

Jan. 22, 9:30am, Confirmation parent meeting, Sunday school

**Liturgical Volunteer Schedule**

**December 31 – January 1**

**4pm:** EM: C. Wesley, Lector: M. Pistack, Acolyte: E. & J. Lyons

**8:30am:** EM: volunteer, Lector: H. Vogue, Acolyte: A., E. & M. Collins

**10:30am:** EM: B. Purdy, Lector: G. Purdy, Acolyte: C. Purdy

**January 7-8**

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

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

**10:30am:** EM: C. Wesley, Lector: CCD students, Acolyte: E. & J. Lyons, JJ Rupprecht

**The Diocese of Scranton** is pleased to announce that the 2022 Diocesan Annual Appeal received \$3,300.00 in gifts and pledges from 15,648 donors, bringing it to 75% of its goal of \$4.5 million. We at Sacred Heart of Jesus Church donated a total of \$12,430.00 to the 2022 Appeal. Thank you for your support of last year's Appeal.

**Our parish** is in need of more lectors, altar servers and Eucharistic ministers to visit the homebound. If you believe that God is calling you to serve your brothers and sisters, please speak to Fr. Petro. *We thank Greg Purdy for volunteering to serve as a new lector!*

**Our parish choir** and cantors practice on **Thursdays at 6:30 pm** in the choir loft. New members are needed - contact Tony George!

**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.