

Sacred Heart of Jesus Church

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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.

✠ Second Sunday in Ordinary Time ♦ January 15, 2023 ✠

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

The Parochial Pen

My dear parishioners,

Ordinary Time begins on Tuesday, January 10, and continues through Tuesday, February 21, the day commonly called “Fat Tuesday.” Ash Wednesday and the beginning of the Lenten season immediately follow. Ordinary Time will resume when the Easter season ends, that is, on Monday, May 29, the day after Pentecost. The Church in her Universal Norms teaches us: “Besides the times of the year that have their own distinctive character, there remains in the yearly cycle of thirty-three or thirty-four weeks in which no particular aspect of the mystery of Christ is celebrated, but rather the mystery of Christ itself is honored in its fullness, especially on Sundays. This period is known as Ordinary Time.”

As we begin Ordinary Time and focus on the mystery of Jesus Christ in our lives, I share with you “Mary Stewart’s Prayer.” It has been used by many people throughout the years to help them become more Christ-like. Mary Stewart (1876-1943) was the principal of Longmont High School in Colorado. She was described as a little bundle of energy, dignity and personal charm. She wrote this prayer in 1904 as an opening prayer for her women’s club meetings. In 1920, the General Federation of Women’s Clubs for the U.S. and Canada published it. It was used as a closing prayer for sessions of the U. S. Senate in 1949. Perhaps we can pray it from time-to-time this year to bring us closer to God?

Sincerely yours in Christ,
Father Petro

Mary Stewart’s Prayer: Keep us, O God, from all pettiness. Let us be large in thought, in word, in deed. Let us be done with fault-finding, and leave off all self-seeking. May we put away all pretense and meet each other face to face, without self pity and without prejudice. May we never be hasty in judgment, and always be generous. Let us always take time for all things, and make us to grow calm, serene and gentle. Teach us to put into action our better impulses, to be straightforward and unafraid. Grant that we may realize that it is the little things of life that create differences, that in the big things of life, we are as one. And, O Lord God, let us not forget to be kind! Amen.

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 Thursday, 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. 4/5.

The Confraternity of Christian Mothers of our parish recently presented a check in the amount of \$12,000 to Fr. Petro at the CCM Wafer Dinner 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 parking lot renovation. *Thank you so much, ladies!*

Free 2023 liturgical calendars are available in the church narthex. Every Catholic household should have one!

Lenten Pierogi Sale: our Confraternity of Christian Mothers will take orders for their Lenten Pierogi Sale on Saturday, Jan. 28, 3-5 p.m. and Sunday, Jan. 29, 8-11:30 a.m. in the church hall. *Phone orders will not be taken.* Pierogi will be sold for \$12 a dozen. Potato and cabbage pierogi will be available. A schedule regarding pick-up days and times will be forthcoming. Payment is made at the time of pick-up – cash only, no checks. Anyone able to help with the making of pierogi is asked to contact MaryAnn at 654-3239.

St. Joseph Day Potato Pancake Sale will be held in anticipation of the Feast of St. Joseph, Friday, March 17, from 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. in the garage behind the rectory. These tasty meatless Lenten treats, called *placki* in the Polish language, will be available for your lunch and dinner enjoyment that Friday. Food will be sold on a first-come, first-served basis. This Lenten food fundraiser is being chaired by Charyl Nagy. She is looking for volunteers to help prepare the garage and stoves, clean and peel potatoes, make and fry the batter, and clean up the garage after the sale. *Please either text or call her (570-540-5478) to let her know your availability.* Volunteers will meet on March 16 from 2:30-6:30pm to prepare the garage and grills and March 17 at 6 a.m. in the church hall to peel and prep potatoes and batter. *Also, would anyone like to make halushki or meatless soup to sell along with the potato pancakes? If so, please let her know.*

Parish Flea Market - Save the Date! On March 18/19 we will 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 place them in the church hall next month. Items that will be accepted from February 11 to March 12 include household items, kitchen items, toys, holiday decorations, and more. Please note that electronics, clothing, bedding, cassette tapes and VHS tapes will not be accepted.

If your child attends Catholic school and is anticipated to receive the Sacraments of First Penance (March 4) and First Communion (May 7) or Confirmation (April 26), be sure they are registered in our CCD program.

Our Parish Office will be closed Thurs., Jan. 19. It will open Fri., Jan. 20 at 8:30 a.m.

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 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.

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.

Requests for 2022 Contribution Statements can be made by contacting Kathy at the parish office. These statements may be used for your tax purposes.

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 December lottery winner was Elaine Lello.

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.

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

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.

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.

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.

Order of Alhambra caravan Alhambra #4 will host a Eucharistic holy hour on Sunday, Jan. 29 at 2pm in Christ the King Chapel on the campus of King’s College, 31 W. North St. Wilkes-Barre. Intentions will be offered for special needs individuals and their families. All faithful are invited to attend.

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. To obtain an application, contact Ada Magni at amagni@earthlink.net. Application deadline is Feb. 23.

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.

Monday (Jan. 16) Weekday

7:30 am Michael and Betty Casey
by *Betty Belles*

Tuesday (Jan. 17) St. Anthony the Abbot

7:30 am Frances Milewski
by *Frank Norton*

Wednesday (Jan. 18) Weekday

7:30 am Joseph F. Skrzysowski
by *son, Paul*

Thursday (Jan. 19) Weekday

7:30 am Stanley Zurek
by *Danny and Hilda Twardowski*

Friday (Jan. 20) St. Fabian

7:30 am Henry Kurutz
by *Eileen and Greg Piegaro*

Saturday (Jan. 21) Vigil: Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

4:00 pm Paul Biesiedecki
by *Christian Nesgoda and John Sakulich*

Sunday (Jan. 22) Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

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

<p>WEEKLY OFFERING Last Sunday: \$9,336.00 Building Fund: \$676.00 Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God: \$1,299.00 Initial Offering: \$550.00 Insurance: \$654.00 Care & Education of Priests: \$515.00 <i>May the Lord reward your generosity.</i></p>

The sanctuary candles burn the week of this week in memory of:
Tabernacle: *the Lopata family, by Bob and Jim Lopata*
Blessed Mother: *Henry & Amelia Ziobro, by Ron & Sharon Ziobro & family*
St. Joseph: *Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Skrzysowski & sons, by son, Paul*
St. Therese: *Katherine Stelle Potera, by Eric and Ashley Petrini*
St. Francis: *Dante Volpe, by Theresa Volpe.*

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

UPCOMING EVENTS
Jan. 22, 9:30am, Confirmation parent meeting, Sunday school
Jan. 26, 6:30pm, Choir practice, choir loft
Feb. 1, 7:00pm, Holy Name Society meeting, church hall
Feb. 2, 6:30pm, Choir practice, choir loft
Feb. 3, 7:30am, 1 st Friday Mass and devotions, church
Feb. 4, 2:45-3:45pm, 1 st Saturday Adoration/devotions, church
Feb. 5, 10:30am, CCD Mass, grade 3 assists
Feb. 7, 12:30pm, CCM meeting, church hall
Feb. 9, 6:30pm, Choir practice, choir loft
Feb. 12, 9:30am, First Penance parent meeting, Sunday school

Liturgical Volunteer Schedule
January 14-15
4pm: EM: M. Pistack, Lector: S. Bartosiewicz, Acolyte: J. LaFratte
8:30am: EM: <i>volunteer</i> , Lector: H. Vogue, Acolyte: A., E. & M. Collins
10:30am: EM: C. Wesley, Lector: G. Beccaloni, Acolyte: JJ Rupprecht
January 21-22
4pm: EM: C. Wesley, Lector: J. LaFratte, Acolyte: J. LaFratte
8:30am: EM: <i>volunteer</i> , Lector: J. Roche, Acolyte: E. & J. Lyons
10:30am: EM: D. Suchecki, Lector: T. Satkowski, Acolyte: JJ Rupprecht

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.

A Mass for Life will be celebrated at St. Peter’s Cathedral, Scranton, by Bishop Bambera on Thursday, Jan. 19 at 7pm. January 22 will mark the 50th anniversary of the Roe v. Wade Supreme Court decision legalizing abortion in the United States. Since then, the Catholic Church has continuously prayed and advocated for a greater respect of all human life and an end to abortion. While the June 2022 Dobbs ruling has made abortion less accessible, the need for prayer remains urgent. All are welcome to attend and pray for a greater respect for human life, from conception to natural death.