

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 on Saturdays at 3:15 p.m.

Parish Office hours: Monday – Thursday, 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., 1 to 3 p.m.; Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 12 p.m.

✠ Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time ♦ September 29, 2024 ✠

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

The Parochial Pen

My dear parishioners,

The bridge that traversed Interstate Route 81 and connected to Oak Street in Dupont Borough was removed approximately ten years ago. What remained of the terminus from the bridge to the street became an empty gravel lot in which invasive noxious weeds, litter and loiterers found a home. This approximately one quarter acre lot is owned by the borough and located across from a cemetery in a residential area. A single flagpole remains in the lot: a relic of the former bridge's terminus.

For almost two years, a discussion regarding this lot's rehabilitation has been present in the local community. I have proposed to the Dupont Borough council that this abandoned borough lot be turned into a public green space for people to enjoy. They have favorably responded, and we are in the process of securing a government grant to help make it a reality. Specifically, it is our desire to develop it into the "Oak Street Memorial Park" dedicated to the men and women who worked in our community's former anthracite coal mines and garment industry. Over one hundred years ago, poor immigrants hailing primarily from eastern Europe, began to settle in what is today Dupont Borough. Many of them worked hard in dangerous conditions to create a better life for themselves and their children. Many men and boys labored in the darkness of the anthracite coal mines. Many women and girls found employment doing "piece work" for long hours in one of the area's many "dress factories." Theirs were the hands that built America during the Industrial Revolution. These blue-collar workers formed an army of labor that provided for the economic good of their families and their borough. At one point in the early to mid-twentieth century, most of the population of the borough was employed in one of these two industries. While both the mines and factories have closed, the current citizenry of the borough owes these intrepid individuals the favor of a remembrance in forming the borough's culture, industry, heritage and outlook. This proposed park is a beneficial way to do so – we credit the memory of their good work and provide for ourselves a place of rest, beauty and environmental care.

I will discuss the project's description and its positive community impact in future Parochial Pen articles, as well as opportunities for our parish's participation in this worthwhile civic project. I hope I've sparked your interest to join me!

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Father Petro

The 2024-25 Catholic Ministries Appeal has begun. Commitment cards for the Appeal have been mailed and are available in the narthex. Parishioners are asked to consider what they can contribute to the Appeal. The Catholic Ministries Appeal benefits thousands of people throughout our diocese and beyond through good works funded by the Appeal. As parish support is critical to the success of the Appeal, our participation is key. Gifts of all sizes are welcome. Our parish goal is \$32,953.00. Raised to date: \$4,140.00

The Catholic Light updated its subscription record database. Any person who donates at least \$10 to the Catholic Ministries Appeal automatically receives a complimentary copy of The Catholic Light newspaper for the following year. Gifts to the Appeal are now being requested of our parishioners. Consider giving so as to receive an annual subscription to our diocesan monthly newspaper.

A "Pro-Life Baby Shower" sponsored by our Confraternity of Christian Mothers will be held Sunday, Oct. 6 to benefit the Wyoming Valley Chapter of Pennsylvanians for Human Life. They will begin collecting baby items (new, unused) such as sleepers, blankets/afghans, washcloths and towels, diapers, etc. Donations can be dropped off before or after all Masses and can be placed in the play pen which will be in the church narthex beginning. Monetary donations will also be gratefully accepted and can be placed in the collection basket or sent to the parish office in a marked envelope indicating a donation to the "Baby Shower." The CCM invites all to attend a mock baby shower on Sunday, October 6, after 10:30 a.m. Mass in the church hall.

For the month of October, our parish along with parishes around the country conduct the "October count," a measure of attendance at Sunday Mass. The measure has been taken for many centuries, and in some European dioceses it is possible to measure the level of engagement in worship by the population over the course of many centuries. The October count has proven especially critical in the life of our Church as bishops use the figures to measure the vitality of parish life, to sketch parish boundaries, and even to decide when to close, merge, or form new parishes. *As indicated, effective July 2025 our parish will be linked with Queen of the Apostles Parish, Avoca, under one pastor. Details will be forthcoming.*

The Feast of St. Therese of Lisieux is celebrated Tues., Oct. 1. She was known as the "Little Flower" and died of tuberculosis in France at the age of 24. She was a Carmelite nun who, in her biography, *The Story of a Soul*, urged all to follow "the little way." Not only does our parish possess a beautiful statue of her located in the sanctuary, but we also have a first-class relic of St. Therese. All the faithful will be blessed with her relic at the conclusion of the 7:30 a.m. Mass on Tuesday, Oct. 1.

The Church celebrates the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi on Friday, Oct. 4. Fr. Petro will administer a special blessing to all pets on Sunday, Oct. 6, at 9:30 a.m. in the picnic grove. Parishioners and friends of our parish are invited to bring their animals to pray for the intercession of the saint who loved nature and all of God's creatures. Members of our Holy Name Society will host a light outdoor social following the blessing. To provide a safe environment for all who attend this event, please be sure that all pets are properly restrained.

A Fall Theology Series will be held in our school for adult learners on Wednesdays October 23, 30 and November 6 from 6 to 7 p.m. Bill Jones will conduct the classes. Proposed classes: Oct. 23, "*Mary is: the Mother of God; Our Lady; and much, much more.*" In this presentation we will discuss the Protestant myths about the Mother of Our Lord and the Jewish biblical roots of Mary. Oct. 30, "*The Koran and Its References to Jesus, Mary and Christians.*" This class will explore passages from the Koran that refer to these themes. Nov. 6, "*Modernism: The Unknown Threat.*" This class will discuss the meaning of modernism and why it has been called the "synthesis of all heresies." The presentation will expand on its influence upon the Church and society, and our relationship with God. All are invited to attend this free series.

28th Anniversary of the Wyoming Valley Knights of Columbus "Tomb of Unborn" — Respect Life Sunday, October 6 at 2 pm. Prayerful commemoration at the Knights' Tomb of the Unborn, located at the top of Mt. Olivet Cemetery in Carverton. Fr. Petro, chaplain of Greater Pittston Knights of Columbus Assembly 948 will celebrate the Order for Visiting a Cemetery, followed by the recitation of the Glorious Mysteries of the Rosary. All Knights of Columbus and the area faithful are invited to attend.

CCD classes have begun! Registration forms are available in the narthex as well as online at www.sacredheartdupont.com and can be returned to the parish office. *All school-aged children (both public and homeschoolers) who do not attend Catholic schools in grades 1 to 8 are required to attend CCD classes.* Contact DRE Mrs. Nancy Beccaloni with questions at 570-451-1903.

CCD Mass: Oct. 13, Grade 8 students will assist at the 10:30 a.m. Mass. All CCD students are required to attend.

“The Month of the Rosary” is October. Please join in praying the rosary prior to each Mass in our church, weekdays and weekends, throughout the month. Free First Saturday Rosary religious items are available in the narthex.

We are happy to welcome to our parish Peter Bard of Hazle Twp. A warm welcome to our newest member!

Pre-Arranging a Funeral Mass: If you would like to plan your Mass of Christian Burial in advance, then contact the parish office to request a funeral planning booklet so that you can make a record of what you have designated (readings, hymns, etc.) for your funeral to be celebrated in our church. You are encouraged to keep it in a confidential file to be shared with your family at the appointed time, who will then share it with the undertaker and the priest.

Tombstone Project: Our parish Holy Name Society is spearheading an effort to repair badly damaged tombstones in our cemetery. Parishioner Scott Hilenski, the owner of Memento Mortuos Memorial Maintenance, is being financially sponsored by our Holy Name Society to accomplish this task. Approximately fifty neglected tombstones have been identified as needing repair. They are among our oldest, dating from the early twentieth century. Scott hopes to be assisted by Holy Name Society men, or other people interested in preserving our cemetery’s oldest tombstones, to defray the labor costs and complete the project in a timely manner. If you would like to help Scott accomplish this special work, visit his website <https://www.nepacemeterycare.com/> to see his contact information. He will purchase the materials and coordinate volunteers. If you are unable to physically assist in our cemetery project but would like to make a monetary donation to help cover some expenses, then please place your donation in an envelope marked “Tombstone Project” and either mail it to the parish office or drop it in the collection basket. Kindly make checks payable to our Holy Name Society. *Volunteers are needed to work on Tuesday, October 1 and Friday, October 4 from 3 to 6 p.m. - please park on Lackawanna Ave. and bring a good shovel.*

“Cemetery Sunday” devotions will take place this year on Sun., Oct. 27, beginning at 1pm in our church. We will begin with the Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and the praying of the Sorrowful Mysteries of the Rosary. The names of our parishioners who died and were buried from our church since last year’s devotions will be read aloud. *You are invited to bring photos of your deceased loved ones and place them on the table in front of the St. Joseph side altar.* After Solemn Benediction and Reposition, a procession will form to the cemetery while the faithful sing the Litany of the Saints. The faithful who cannot walk in the procession may drive to the cemetery. Father will then bless the cemetery and visitation of the graves by the faithful will follow. Traditional Polish, Latin and English hymns will be sung. Please join in praying for the peaceful repose of the souls of all the faithful departed.

The St. Vincent de Paul Society: this parish account is used solely to support the charitable work of our parish. An annual envelope appears in your packets, around the September 27 feast day of St. Vincent de Paul, which you may use to make a direct donation to support the charitable needs of our local parishioners. To make a monetary donation toward this outreach apostolate, place your gift in the envelope marked “St. Vincent de Paul Society” and drop it in the basket or send it to the parish office.

Children and Student Envelopes: If you would like your child to receive a boxed set of donation envelopes for 2025, please contact the parish office. Envelopes will be available in the narthex during the month of December for those who have requested them.

The School Support envelope can be found in this month’s envelope pack. Your school support contributions help defray expenses incurred by our CCD program through the academic year.

Are you interested in the Catholic faith and becoming Catholic, or do you know someone who is interested in becoming a Catholic? If you are interested in entering the Church, please contact Fr. Petro.

A Diocesan pilgrimage to Italy and Rome will be led by Bishop Bambera from Aug. 31 to Sept. 9 in the Holy Year 2025. For more information, including a day-by-day itinerary, visit the Diocese of Scranton website at www.dioceseofscranton.org.

Monday (Sept. 30) St. Jerome

7:30 am Stanley Kivak
by Sacred Heart HNS

Tuesday (Oct. 1) St. Therese of the Child Jesus

7:30 am Florence Babiarz
by Andrew Babiarz and family

Wednesday (Oct. 2) The Holy Guardian Angels

7:30 am Stephen Mazur
by Patricia and Timothy Stonikinis

Thursday (Oct. 3) Weekday

7:30 am Philomena Renfer
by Julie Carmody

Friday (Oct. 4) St. Francis of Assisi (First Friday)

7:30 am Peter Sroka
by Thomas and Dorothy Sheridan

Saturday (Oct. 5) Vigil: 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time

4:00 pm Deceased of the Anna and John Bartush, Sr. family
by daughters, MaryAnn Ruane and Barbara Vitale

Sunday (Oct. 6) Twenty-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:30 am Our Parishioners (*Missa pro populo*)
10:30 am Deceased members of our CCM
by Sacred Heart CCM

“His Heart... WEEKLY OFFERING ...Our Hands”
Last Sunday: \$5,077.65
Building Fund: \$269.00
May the Lord reward your generosity.

The sanctuary candles burn this week in memory of:
Tabernacle: Richard Kuchinski, Jr., by Tony and Marie
Blessed Mother: with gratitude for blessings bestowed, by Ashley and Eric Petrini
St. Joseph: John Angelella, by family
St. Therese: In honor of St. Therese, by a devotee
St. Francis: In honor of St. Francis, by a devotee

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The offertory gifts of bread & wine this Sunday are donated in thanksgiving to God for the blessing of baby Elena, by Ashley and Eric Petrini.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Oct. 1, 3pm, Tombstone repairs, cemetery
- Oct. 1, 6:30pm, Choir practice, choir loft
- Oct. 2, 7pm, Holy Name Society meeting, hall
- Oct. 4, 7:30 am, 1st Friday Mass and devotions, church
- Oct. 4, 3pm, Tombstone repairs, cemetery
- Oct. 5, 2:45-3:45pm, 1st Saturday Adoration/devotions, church
- Oct. 6, 9:30am, Blessing of pets, picnic grove
- Oct. 6, 11:30am, Mock baby shower, hall
- Oct. 7, 6pm, CCM meeting, hall
- Oct. 10, 6:30pm, Choir practice, choir loft
- Oct. 13, 10:30am, CCD Mass, grade 8 assists

Liturgical Volunteer Schedule

Sept. 28-29
4pm: EM: C. Wesley, Lector: A. Devlin, Acolyte: Collins family
8:30am: EM: M. Moletsky, Lector: H. Vogue, Acolyte: A. & J. Rupprecht
10:30am: EM: B. Purdy, Lector: M. Ferretti, Acolyte: C. & T. Papiercavich
Oct. 5-6
4pm: EM: M. Pistack, Lector: S. Bartosiewicz, Acolyte: Collins family
8:30am: EM: B. Jones, Lector: J. Roche, Acolyte: E. & J. Lyons
10:30am: EM: B. Purdy, Lector: L. Rupprecht, Acolyte: A. & J. Rupprecht

The Catholic Men’s Conference will be held Sat., Oct. 5, 8am-3pm at Holy Redeemer High School, Wilkes-Barre. Register online at www.BeACatholicMan.com. The cost is \$40 for adults and \$15 for students. For details, contact Mike Kilmer at 570-721-0872 or mkilmer@thekilmergroup.com.

A Night at the Races will be held on Oct. 19 at St. Michael’s Byzantine Church, Pittston. Doors open at 6pm and races begin at 7pm. Horses are \$10 each with a chance to win \$50 each. BYOB, food for sale, trivia games, basket raffle and instant bingo. To reserve a table or purchase a horse call Andrea at 570-466-4227.

Prayer to your Guardian Angel: Angel sent by God to guide me, be my light and walk beside me; be my guardian and protect me; on the paths of life direct me.