

# 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.

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## ✠ First Sunday of Advent ♦ December 1, 2024 ✠

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

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The Parochial Pen

My dear parishioners,

One of the great Advent hymns is “Lo, He Comes with Clouds Descending,” written by Charles Wesley, a founder of the Methodist church. This hymn looks forward to Christ’s Second Coming, to which our attention is turned in the first part of Advent. We will sing all the verses of this beautiful hymn at the opening procession of this weekend’s Masses. This hymn may be sung to various tunes, but the best is Helmsley, which can be belted out in a harmonic choir, or with all the stops open on the organ.

Note the words as we sing together. Its poetry is deeply theological, beautiful and moving – the hymn tune matches the words perfectly. It is solemn, majestic and stirring. This hymn and the words are accessible to anyone and singable by all. It catechizes because it is full of Christian truth. Most importantly, it fits with the liturgy of the First Sunday of Advent.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

*Father Petro*

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**During the 4 p.m. Vigil Mass** in our church on the First Sunday of Advent, Nov. 30, the Advent Wreath will be blessed and lit following the General Intercessions. The use of the Advent Wreath is a traditional practice which has found its place in the Church as well as in the home. Customarily the Advent Wreath is constructed of a circle of evergreen branches into which are inserted four candles, three are violet and one is rose. The candles represent the four weeks of Advent and the number of candles lighted each week corresponds to the number of the current week of Advent. The rose candle is lighted on the Third Sunday of Advent. We encourage our parish families to place an Advent Wreath in their home and anticipate the coming of Christ’s birth by praying this tradition.

**The *oplatki***, the traditional Eastern European Christmas Eve wafers, will be blessed during the 4 pm Mass on Nov. 30. *The oplatki will be available after that Mass to mark the start of Advent.* The offering is \$3 per wafer envelope. **Free 2025 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 these items are now available in the church narthex.

**All parishioners are invited** to make use of the contribution envelope in their packets for Christmas Flower donations. All money collected will defray the cost of purchasing our sanctuary decorations and flowers for the Christmas season. Please list your Christmas intentions on the reverse side of the envelope. These envelopes will be placed in the crèche for Christmas.

**Beginning the first weekend of Advent**, we will be using the Mass of Charity and Love music setting for the sung parts of the Mass. The Mass of St. Francis will debut for the Christmas season.

**The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception** of the Blessed Virgin Mary is celebrated December 8. This year, December 8 will fall on a Sunday - specifically the Second Sunday of Advent. As a result, the celebration of the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception is transferred to Monday, December 9. Bishop Bambera has granted a dispensation to the faithful from the obligation to attend Mass on Monday, December 9. However, everyone is strongly encouraged to attend Mass on Monday, December 9, or do some form of extra prayer, like the Rosary. *Mass will be offered in our church on December 9 at 7:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. for those who wish to celebrate this special feast of Our Lady.*

**A St. Nicholas Party** will be held by our parish Holy Name Society on **Wed., Dec. 4 at 6 pm** in the church hall. All HNS members are invited to attend *and are asked to make their reservation with Greg Zawacki by calling 947-8200.*

**HNS Corporate Communion Mass** will be celebrated on Sun., Dec. 18, at 8:30 am. All members are to dress in suits and meet in the church hall prior to the Mass. HNS members will process and recess with Father at Mass and recite the Holy Name Pledge.

**The annual Christmas Cookie Walk** will be held Saturday, Dec. 14, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. in our church hall! Volunteer bakers are needed to help supply homemade baked goodies. Please prepare a double or triple batch of your best kind of cookie/candy. Use the sign-up sheet located in narthex or contact Tammy Satkowski, 457-3855. Cookies may be dropped off at the church hall on Friday, Dec. 13, between 6 and 8 p.m. or Saturday, Dec. 14, from 8 to 10 a.m. **Donate lottery tickets!** In conjunction with the Cookie Walk, there will also be a lottery ticket basket raffle. If anyone would like to donate lottery ticket(s) for the basket, please place the lottery ticket(s) in an envelope labeled “CCM-Lottery Tickets” and place in the collection basket. Tickets will need to be received by Dec. 8.

**Our annual Christmas COOKIE WALK** will be Saturday, Dec. 14, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the church hall. Choose from dozens of delicious homemade cookies available for \$10 a pound. Try your luck at winning a lottery ticket theme basket or the 50/50 raffle just in time for Christmas! Be aware that this will not be a nut free environment.

**Our Confraternity of Christian Mothers** will gather for an evening of prayer and fellowship on Mon., Dec. 2, at 6 p.m. in our church. This evening will help set a prayerful tone for the season of Advent and spiritually prepare for Christmas. The ladies will then convene in the church hall where a very brief meeting will take place followed by a social gathering. *Each CCM member is asked to bring at least one other woman who is not a member.*

**2025 Children’s Envelopes** are now available for pick-up in the church narthex. If you have requested envelopes for your child or if they have been receiving them in 2024, please find the boxed envelope set labeled with their name. If your child’s name is not found or you are new to the parish and would like them to receive envelopes, please contact the parish office.

**Advent Confession Schedule:** confessions are heard every Saturday, 3:15 to 3:50 p.m. *Confessions will also be heard in Sacred Heart Church on the day before Christmas Eve, Monday, December 23, from 9:15 to 10:15 a.m. and from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.* All Catholics are encouraged to celebrate the sacrament of reconciliation during Advent to properly celebrate the feast of Christ’s birth. A deanery Penance Service will also be held Mon., Dec. 16, at 6:30 p.m. in St. John the Evangelist Church, Pittston.

*For easy reference, clip & save this year’s holiday Mass schedule*✂

### 2024-25 HOLY DAY MASS SCHEDULE

(Christmas) Tuesday, Dec. 24: 4:00 p.m.

Wednesday, Dec. 25: 12:00 a.m., 8:30 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.

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

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

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

Sunday, Jan. 5: 8:30 & 10:30 a.m.

**Pre-Mass classical music recollections** will be offered three times: Dec. 1, Dec. 8, and Dec. 15, each at 10am. Each recital will illustrate a different period of classical music throughout the centuries. We will focus on the three most well-known time periods, namely the Baroque Era, the Classical Era, and the Romantic Era. These recitals will be performed by Anthony J. George, Jr., our Parish Music Director/Organist. Take advantage of these opportunities during Advent to spiritually prepare for the Nativity of Our Lord.

**Kolędy polskie**, or Polish-language carols, will be sung in our church prior to Midnight Mass at 11:15 pm. You are invited to come and listen (or even sing along!).

**Our parish choir** and cantors practice on **Thursdays at 6:30 pm** in the church choir loft. New members are encouraged to attend - contact Anthony George, music director, if you are interested.

**A Red Cross blood drive** will be held in our church hall on Wednesday, December 18. Go to [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org) to schedule your blood donation in Dupont.

**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.

**CCD News:** CCD classes are canceled on Dec. 1 for Thanksgiving break. Classes resume Dec. 8.

**Our monthly expenses**, many of them fixed and none of them superfluous, are paid from the amounts received from our weekly collections. It is our hope that the Christmas collection from our parish will be healthy enough to offset any fiscal deficiencies experienced earlier this calendar year. *Your sacrificial Christmas gift to your parish is most appreciated!*

**HNS Match the Daily Number raffle:** \$5 will give 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. Raffle tickets can be purchased from any Holy Name Society member. The winning ticket must be presented. If you have the winning number, call HNS president Greg Zawacki, 570-947-8200.

**A “New Sock Drive”** is being sponsored by our 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> grade CCD students under the direction of Harry Lyons, their catechist. Donations of new men’s socks, any size or color, can be placed in the bin in the church narthex until January 5. Donations will be given to Mother Teresa’s Haven, a homeless shelter program that is operated by the Diocese of Scranton’s Catholic Social Services. He and his class are conducting this drive for homeless men.

**Scranton Preparatory School’s** Scholarship Entrance Exam will be held on Saturday, Dec. 7, for eighth grade students interested in applying for the fall term of 2025. Students should register by applying online at [www.scrantonprep.org/preptest](http://www.scrantonprep.org/preptest). Call 570-941-PREP, extension 1141 with any questions.

**The Catholic Choral Society** will present an Advent Concert on Sunday, December 8 at 3pm at Blessed Sacrament Chapel, Mercy Center, Misericordia University, Dallas. The concert is open to the public free of charge, however, a free will offering will be accepted.

**ST. ANDREW CHRISTMAS NOVENA**

While a novena is normally a nine-day prayer, the term is sometimes used for any prayer that is repeated over a series of days. The Saint Andrew Christmas Novena is often called simply the “Christmas Novena” or the “Christmas Anticipation Prayer,” because it is prayed 15 times every day from the Feast of Saint Andrew the Apostle (November 30) until Christmas. The First Sunday of Advent is the Sunday closest to the Feast of Saint Andrew. The novena is not actually addressed to Saint Andrew but to God Himself, asking Him to grant our request in the honor of the birth of His Son at Christmas. You can say the prayer all 15 times, all at once; or divide up the recitation as necessary (perhaps five times at each meal). Prayed as a family, the Saint Andrew Christmas Novena is a very good way to help focus the attention of your children on the Advent season. The novena prayer:

*Hail and blessed be the hour and moment in which the Son of God was born of the most pure Virgin Mary, at midnight, in Bethlehem, in piercing cold. In that hour, vouchsafe, O my God, to hear my prayer and grant my desires, through the merits of Our Savior Jesus Christ, and of His Blessed Mother. Amen.*

**The 2024-25 Catholic Ministries Appeal:** All parishioners are asked to contribute to the Appeal and fill out a card in the narthex indicating their pledge and place it in the collection basket. Our parish goal is \$32,953. Raised to date: \$14,210.00.

*Prayer for Benefactors: Reward those who have been good to us for the sake of your name, O Lord, and give them eternal life.*

**Monday (Dec. 2) Advent Weekday**

7:30 am Andreas Gieryc  
by Stanley and Elaine Warunek

**Tuesday (Dec. 3) St. Francis Xavier**

7:30 am Lottie Koteck  
by Rosalie Kaplan

**Wednesday (Dec. 4) St. John Damascene**

7:30 am Joseph and Josephine Pistack  
by MaryAnn Pistack and family

**Thursday (Dec. 5) Advent Weekday**

7:30 am Casimer and Marie Bartosiewicz  
by Gene, Sharon and Robert Bartosiewicz

**Friday (Dec. 6) St. Nicholas (First Friday)**

7:30 am Frank and Jennie Fritz  
by Ed and Sylvia Mozgowiec

**Saturday (Dec. 7) Vigil: Second Sunday of Advent**

4:00 pm Our Parishioners (*Missa pro populo*)

**Sunday (Dec. 8) Second Sunday of Advent**

8:30 am Deceased members of our Holy Name Society  
by Sacred Heart HNS  
10:30 am Anna Justick  
by Joseph and Loretta Justick

“His Heart... WEEKLY OFFERING ...Our Hands”  
**Last Sunday:** \$3,341.95  
**Building Fund:** \$354.00  
**Fuel:** \$223.00  
*May the Lord reward your generosity.*

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

Tabernacle: Marion Babiarz, by Andrew Babiarz  
Blessed Mother: Steve Haluschak, by Michele Moletsky  
St. Joseph: Theresa Cebula, by the McLaughlin family



*The offertory gifts of bread & wine this Sunday are donated in memory of Frank, Dolores and Dee Ruda, by family.*

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

- Dec. 2, 6pm, CCM holy hour/social, church
- Dec. 4, 7pm, HNS meeting, hall
- Dec. 5, 6:30pm, Choir practice, choir loft
- Dec. 6, 7:30 am, 1<sup>st</sup> Friday Mass and devotions, church
- Dec. 7, 2:45-3:45pm, 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday Adoration/devotions, church
- Dec. 12, 6:30pm, Choir practice, choir loft
- Dec. 14, 10am-1pm, Cookie Walk, church hall
- Dec. 15, 10:30am, CCD Mass, grade 4 assists

**Liturgical Volunteer Schedule**

**Nov. 30-Dec. 1**

**4pm:** EM: M. Pistack, Lector: H. Vogue, Acolyte: E. & J. Lyons

**8:30am:** EM: B. Jones, Lector: J. Roche, Acolyte: Collins family

**10:30am:** EM: C. Wesley, Lector: G. Beccaloni, Acolyte: C., E., & J. Toalongo

**Dec. 7-8**

**4pm:** EM: M. Pistack, Lector: J. Klenner, Acolyte: C. Purdy

**8:30am:** EM: M. Moletsky, Lector: J. Roche, Acolyte: E. Suchecki

**10:30am:** EM: D. Suchecki, Lector: M. Ferretti, Acolyte: C. & T. Papiercavich

**Homebound parishioners** are reminded that they may have Holy Communion brought to them on the First Friday of each month by calling the Parish Office and requesting this service. The sacraments of confession and anointing of the sick are offered to all homebound parishioners every Advent and Lent. Fr. Petro will visit the homebound this December 6.

**Our parish fundraiser with Rada Cutlery** continues this Christmas, offering you their famous knives, kitchen utensils, baking pans and more. Rada Manufacturing Company has made and sold over 150,000,000 knives since 1948. Rada Knives are 100% Made in the USA. 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! Parishioners are asked to access Rada via the homepage of the parish website ([www.sacredheartdupont.com](http://www.sacredheartdupont.com)) and click on the tab that says “Order Here.” The first time you click on the tab, a box will come up asking “Do you want your order to support Sacred Heart of Jesus Church?” Click “YES” and then you will be taken to the Rada Cutlery website where you can view and order their products. In order for the parish to receive a commission on any online sale, orders must be made via this tab on the website.