

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.

✠ Third Sunday of Advent ♦ December 15, 2024 ✠

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

The Parochial Pen

My dear parishioners,

This week we begin a liturgical “sub-set” of the season of Advent, known as “Late Advent,” which runs from December 17 to 23. The liturgies of these weekdays are intended to prepare us more directly for the Lord’s birth. The readings of the Mass focus our attention on the spiritual importance of the Incarnation. A very special feature of the Late Advent season is the appearance of the “O” Antiphons at Vespers and the verses for the Gospel Acclamations at Mass. The hymn, “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel,” based on these antiphons, is familiar to many of us and is properly sung at this time of year. They are referred to as the “O Antiphons” because the title of each one begins with the vocative particle “O.” Each antiphon is a name of Christ, one of his attributes mentioned in Scripture. They are:

17 December: *O Sapientia* (O Wisdom), 18 December: *O Adonai* (O Lord), 19 December: *O Radix Jesse* (O Root of Jesse), 20 December: *O Clavis David* (O Key of David), 21 December: *O Oriens* (O Dayspring), 22 December: *O Rex Gentium* (O King of the Nations), 23 December: *O Emmanuel* (O With Us is God)

If one starts with the last title and takes the first letter of each one - Emmanuel, Rex, Oriens, Clavis, Radix, Adonai, Sapientia - the Latin words *ero cras* are formed, meaning, “Tomorrow, I will come.” Therefore, the Lord Jesus, whose coming we have prepared for in Advent and whom we have addressed in these seven Messianic titles, now speaks to us, “Tomorrow, I will come.” So, the O Antiphons not only bring intensity to our Advent preparation but bring it to a joyful conclusion. *O Virgo Virginum* (O Virgin of virgins) is used as the Antiphon on the Benedictus at Morning Prayer on December 24. If one adds this eighth antiphon on Christmas Eve, the acrostic becomes *Vero cras*, “truly, tomorrow.”

I will make use of these O Antiphons at weekday and Sunday Masses for the Gospel Acclamations during Late Advent. I invite you to attend Mass each day during this Late Advent season to hear the readings proclaimed, to hear the antiphons chanted, and to receive Holy Communion. Do not allow the hectic pace of the world to rob you of the spiritual refreshment that comes with *praying* Advent. Don’t rush the coming of Christmas - you may miss Him when he arrives!

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Father Petro

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We will soon begin again in our parish the Polish custom of *kolęda*, or the annual blessing of homes. This is a pastoral visitation to your home by the priest which takes place during January, usually near the Solemnity of the Epiphany. The Blessing of a Home is not only a blessing for the structure, but for those who dwell therein. If you would like Fr. Petro to bless your home between January 2 and 5, then please complete the form below and return it to the Parish Office by Wednesday, December 18, either by placing it in the collection basket or mailing it. Please indicate your day/time preference - this will be considered when the visitation schedule is being made. Kathy Vojta, the parish secretary, will call you to confirm the date and time of the visit.

Kolęda House Blessing 2025

Name _____ Phone number(s) _____

Address _____ City _____ Zip _____

Day/Times preference (please be flexible and check off all possibilities): Weekdays AM or PM

Saturday Morning Sunday Afternoon

Gaudete Sunday: Certain Sundays throughout the liturgical year have taken their names from the first word in Latin of the Introit, the entrance antiphon at Mass. Gaudete Sunday is one of these. Gaudete Sunday is the Third Sunday of Advent. The Introit for Gaudete Sunday, in both the Traditional Latin Mass and the Novus Ordo, is taken from Philippians 4:4,5: “*Gaudete in Domino semper*” (“Rejoice in the Lord always”). Like Lent, Advent is a penitential season, so the priest normally wears violet vestments. But on Gaudete Sunday, having passed the midpoint of Advent, the Church lightens the mood a little, and the priest may wear rose vestments. The change in color provides us with encouragement to continue our spiritual preparation – especially prayer and fasting – for Christmas. For this same reason, the third candle of the Advent wreath, first lit on Gaudete Sunday, is traditionally rose-colored.

Anyone wishing to add to their 2024 contributions may do so by December 31, 2024. Requests for 2024 Contribution Statements can be made by contacting Kathy at the parish office after the start of the new year. These statements may be used for your tax purposes.

A Red Cross blood drive will be held in our church hall on Wed., Dec. 18, 12:30 p.m. to 5 p.m. Go to www.redcrossblood.org to schedule your blood donation in Dupont. 📍 📍 📍 📍

Christmas church decorating will take place after 10:30 a.m. Mass on Sun., Dec. 22. Holy Name Society members and others are needed to set up the trees, crèche and wreaths indoors, as well as the crèche and wreaths outdoors.

A 2025 Picnic meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 15, at 6 p.m. in our church hall. This very important first meeting will determine the scope and dates of our biggest fundraiser in 2025. All parishioners are encouraged to attend!

The oplatki, the traditional Eastern European Christmas Eve wafers, are now available. The offering is \$3 per wafer envelope. **Free 2025 liturgical calendars** are also available. **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.

Our pre-mass classical music meditations continue Dec. 15, at 10am in church. The repertoire focuses on the Baroque Era, the Classical Era, and the Romantic Era.

Our Parish Office will be closed Monday, Dec. 16 at noon to Tuesday, Dec. 17 as well as Thursday, Dec. 19.

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.



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.

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!).

"Rectory, Set, Cook!" This is a video fundraiser that helps feed the hungry in our area. Diocesan priests compete in cooking shows to win the votes of the public who support them with online donations. The filming of one such video will take place in our parish this week. Fr. Petro will team up with our seminarian, Jeremy Barket, to enter this year's diocesan competition. More details will be forthcoming!

All parishioners are invited to make use of the contribution envelope in their packets for Christmas Flower donations.

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

CCD Mass: Dec. 15, students in grades 4 and 5 will assist at the 10:30 a.m. Mass. All CCD students are required to attend.

Our parish fundraiser with Rada Cutlery continues this Christmas, offering you their famous knives, kitchen utensils, baking pans and more. 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) 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. For the parish to receive a commission on any online sale, orders must be made via this tab on the website.

A **"New Sock Drive"** is being sponsored by our 6th & 7th 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.

Need a new gift giving idea? Try this! What to give to that special someone who has everything? How about help for someone who doesn't! You can donate 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 requests to our parish office.

The CCM Wafer Dinner will be held on Saturday, January 11, 2025, in the church hall following 4 p.m. Mass. The dinner will be buffet style catered by Arcaro and Gennell. All members are cordially invited to attend and to bring a female guest. The dinner is free for CCM Members and their guests, but reservations are required. Please complete the form below and drop in the collection basket no later than January 5.

CCM Wafer Dinner Reservation

Name: _____
Telephone Number: _____
No. Attending: _____ (member) _____ (guest)

Monday (Dec. 16) Advent Weekday

7:30 am Daniel Lello
by Dorothy Kishel

Tuesday (Dec. 17) Late Advent Weekday

7:30 am Stanley Kivak
by Robert Lopata

Wednesday (Dec. 18) Late Advent Weekday

7:30 am Arlene Norton
by Jackie Kmiec

Thursday (Dec. 19) Late Advent Weekday

7:30 am Eva Stonikinis
by Tim and Patti Stonikinis

Friday (Dec. 20) Late Advent Weekday

7:30 am Emmanuel Ziobro
by Ed and Carolyn Klimek

Saturday (Dec. 21) Vigil: 4th Sunday of Advent

4:00 pm Frank and Rose Skrzysowski
by family

Sunday (Dec. 22) Fourth Sunday of Advent

8:30 am Vincent Bryk
by Walter Bryk and family
10:30 am Our Parishioners (*Missa pro populo*)

"His Heart... WEEKLY OFFERING ...Our Hands"
Last Sunday: \$4,969.40
Building Fund: \$389.00
Retirement Fund for Religious: \$186.00
May the Lord reward your generosity.

The sanctuary candles burn this week in memory of:

Blessed Mother: Richard Belles, Sr., family

St. Joseph: John Lopata, by Robert Lopata

St. Francis: William and David Klimek, by Michelina Klimek



The offertory gifts of bread & wine this Sunday are donated for the special intentions of MaryAnn Pistack.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Dec. 14, 10am-1pm, Cookie Walk, hall
- Dec. 15, 10:30am, CCD Mass, grade 4 assists
- Dec. 18, 12:30-5pm, Red Cross Blood Drive, hall
- Dec. 19, 6:30pm, Choir practice, choir loft
- Dec. 22, 9:15am, CCD Christmas party, school
- Dec. 22, 11:30am, Christmas decorating, church
- Dec. 23, 9-15-10:15am, 11:30am-12:30pm, Confessions, church
- Dec. 24/25: see Christmas Mass schedule
- Dec. 31/Jan.1: see New Year's Mass schedule

Liturgical Volunteer Schedule

Dec. 14-15
4pm: EM: C. Wesley, Lector: A. Devlin, Acolyte: Collins family
8:30am: EM: B. Jones, Lector: L. Rupprecht, Acolyte: A. & J. Rupprecht
10:30am: EM: J. Barket, Lector: CCD students, Acolyte: C., E. & T. Toalongo
Dec. 21-22
4pm: EM: M. Pistack, Lector: J. Klenner, Acolyte: E. & J. Lyons
8:30am: EM: J. Barket, Lector: H. Vogue, Acolyte: C. & T. Papiercavich
10:30am: EM: D. Suchecki, Lector: T. Satkowski Acolyte: A. & J. Rupprecht

Seminarian Jeremy Barket will speak at Christ the King Parish, 429 Church St., Archbald, on Wednesday, Dec. 18 at 6:30pm. The evening is hosted by the Vocations Office and features Eucharistic Adoration, a talk, live music and a social. All are invited.

Raffle tickets for the Holy Name Society "300 Club" are available from any member. The deadline for ticket returns is March 9. 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 will give you a chance to win by matching your numbers to the PA Lottery Evening Pick 3. The winner with the exact matching number of the Pick 3 (excluding the wild ball) will win \$250. Raffle tickets can be purchased from any Holy Name Society member.

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: \$15,460.00.

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