

Sacred Heart of Jesus Church

215 Lackawanna Avenue, Dupont, Pennsylvania 18641

Phone: (570) 654-3713 ~ E-mail: shojesuschurch@gmail.com ~ www.sacredheartdupont.com

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.

✠ Fourth Sunday of Advent ♦ December 22, 2024 ✠

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

The Parochial Pen

My dear parishioners,

As the Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord draws near, I share with you some beautiful prayers that have been composed by saints. They exhibit a deep reverence for humility and poverty in the birth of Christ, inviting us to reflect on the true essence and significance of Christmas. I encourage you to select one or two of them and pray it together as a family when you gather this year for your holiday dinners. May God grant you a most blessed season of Christmas joy.

Sincerely yours in Christ,
Father Petro

St. Augustine's Christmas Prayer

Let the just rejoice, for their justifier is born. Let the sick and infirm rejoice, for their Savior is born. Let the captives rejoice, for their Redeemer is born. Let slaves rejoice, for their Master is born. Let free men rejoice, for their Liberator is born. Let all Christians rejoice, for Jesus Christ is born. Amen.

St. Francis of Assisi's Christmas Prayer

O most holy Virgin Mary, your appearance at Greccio brought joy to the hearts of the faithful, as you showed them your Divine Son lying in a manger. By your intercession, may we seek humility, and be filled with a deep love for the poverty of Christ, who lives and reigns forever and ever. Amen.

Pope St. John XXIII's Christmas Prayer

O sweet Child of Bethlehem, grant that we may share with all our hearts in this profound mystery of Christmas. Put into the hearts of men and women this peace for which they sometimes seek so desperately and which you alone can give to them. Help them to know one another better, and to live as brothers and sisters, children of the same Father. Reveal to them also your beauty, holiness, and purity. Awaken in their hearts love and gratitude for your infinite goodness. Join them all together in your love. And give us your heavenly peace. Amen.

The members of our CCM extend a heartfelt thank you to everyone who helped make our annual Cookie Walk a great success. **\$1,551.00** was raised! The winner of the Lottery Tree is Gina Galli and the winner of the 50/50 raffle (\$50) is Marianne Kocylowski. Congratulations!

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.

The Nativity Scene at our parish will be blessed following the General Intercessions at the Christmas Eve Mass. Parishioners are encouraged to make a visit to the Nativity Scene following Mass and take some blessed straw as a Christmas remembrance.

On the Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord there is an ancient custom of announcing the birth of Christ at the Mass at midnight. This custom originated in the time when the first Mass of Christmas was at midnight, not the earlier Vigil Mass. The Proclamation of the Birth of Christ will take place at the start of the Midnight Mass in our church. As this ancient announcement is chanted, simply listen to the joyful announcement of Our Savior's Incarnation.

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!).

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.

Advent Confession Schedule: Confessions will 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.

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.

In the Nicene Creed, at the words "and by the Holy Spirit... became man," *all genuflect at all Christmas Masses*. These are the words recalling the Incarnation of the Lord. After the annual celebration of Easter, the Church has no more ancient custom than celebrating the memorial of the Lord's birth and his manifestations that take place during the Christmas season. This season extends from the first Mass of Christmas Eve through the Baptism of the Lord, Monday, January 6, 2024.

Annual Blessing of Families: On Sunday, December 29, the Church celebrates the Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph. As we do each year on this feast, those attending the Mass will receive a special blessing as individuals or as families after the General Intercessions. Simply remain in the pew for a brief blessing.

Our Parish Office will be closed Tuesday, Dec. 24 to Friday, Dec. 27, for Christmas. It will open on Monday, Dec. 30, at 8:30 a.m. The Parish Office will be closed December 31 to January 1. It will open Thursday, January 2, 2025, at 8:30 a.m.

Szczęść Boże!

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

Merry Christmas to all!

We mark our 122nd anniversary as a parish of the Diocese of Scranton in 2024. At Christmastime in 1902, the Very Rev. Msgr. Stanislaus Szpotanski celebrated the First Holy Sacrifice of the Mass at Sacred Heart of Jesus Church in Dupont.

Keep in mind the men and women who are serving in our military forces around the world. Our prayers go to them and their families during this Holy Season. May the Holy Family watch over us all.



Requiescant in pace: pray for the repose of the souls of Alice Bonk and Helen Piechota, who were recently buried from our church.

The American Red Cross is grateful for the generous response to their recent blood drive hosted in our church hall.

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!*

“Rectory, Set, Cook!” 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 took place in our parish last week. Fr. Petro teamed up with our seminarian, Jeremy Barket, to enter this year’s diocesan competition. The video will debut on Fat Tuesday!

The monthly Church Dues for our parish will remain \$6 per person, per month in 2025. 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.

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.

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 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!

Our parish fundraiser with Rada Cutlery continues this Christmas. You are asked to access Rada via the homepage of the parish website (www.sacredheartdupont.com) and click on the tab that says “Order Here.” 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.

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: \$17,930.00.

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.

The CCM Wafer Dinner will be held on Saturday, January 11, 2025, in the church hall following the 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. 23) St. John of Kanty

7:30 am Edward Tetlak

by Michael and Alice Kovalski

Tuesday (Dec. 24) Late Advent Weekday

No 7:30 am Mass

Vigil: The Nativity of the Lord

4:00 pm Frances and Joseph Stoshick

by her brother

Wednesday (Dec. 25) The Nativity of the Lord

12:00 am Our Parishioners (*Missa pro populo*)

8:30 am Catherine and Edward Vogue

by daughter, Helen Vogue, and children

10:30 am Sophie Skibbs

by husband, Thomas

Thursday (Dec. 26) St. Stephen

7:30 am Bonnie Morreale

by AnnMarie and Robert Devlin

Friday (Dec. 27) St. John the Evangelist

7:30 am Stanley Barnak, Sr.

by family

Saturday (Dec. 28) Vigil: The Holy Family

4:00 pm Donna Bartosiewicz

by husband, Bob, and Gene and Sharon

Sunday (Dec. 29) The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

8:30 am Patrick Giambra

by Dana Hinkley

10:30 am Our Parishioners (*Missa pro populo*)

“His Heart... WEEKLY OFFERING ...Our Hands”

Last Sunday: \$3,749.57

Building Fund: \$218.00

Immaculate Conception: \$702.00

Christmas Flowers: \$1,674.00

May the Lord reward your generosity.

The sanctuary candles burn this week in memory of:

Tabernacle: Edmund Poplawski, Sr., by wife, Jean, & family

Blessed Mother: Emmanuel Ziobro, by Frank & Diane Skrzysowski & family

St. Joseph: Michael Rowan, by Georgann Gall

St. Therese: Cassie Lopata, by Bob Lopata

St. Francis: Eleanore Bryk, by Walter Bryk & family



The offertory gifts of bread & wine this Sunday are donated in memory of Vincent Bryk, by Bernadine Bryk and family.

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

Jan. 3, 7:30 am, 1st Friday Mass and devotions, church

Jan. 4, 2:45-3:45pm, 1st Saturday Adoration/devotions, church

Jan. 8, 7pm, Holy Name Society meeting, church hall

Jan. 11, 5:30pm, Christian Mothers Wafer Dinner, hall

Jan. 11, 4pm, Blessing and distribution of Holy Water, church

Jan. 12, 10:30am, CCD Mass, grade 3 assists

Jan. 15, 6pm, 2025 Polish Picnic meeting, hall

Liturgical Volunteer Schedule

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

Dec. 24-25: Christmas

4pm: EM: M. Pistack & C. Wesley, Lector: S. Bartosiewicz, Acolyte: Collins family

12:00am: EM: J. Barket, Lector: C. Purdy, Acolyte: E. & J. Lyons

8:30am: EM: M. Moletsky, Lector: H. Vogue, Acolyte: E. Suchecki

10:30am: EM: B. Jones, Lector: L. Rupprecht, Acolyte: A. & J. Rupprecht, C., E. & T. Toalongo

Dec. 28-29

4pm: EM: J. Barket, Lector: S. Bartosiewicz, Acolyte: Collins family

8:30am: EM: M. Moletsky, Lector: J. Roche, Acolyte: E. & J. Lyons

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