

# 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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## ✠ The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph ♦ December 29, 2024 ✠

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

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The Parochial Pen

My dear parishioners,

In the humble house of Nazareth, Jesus, Mary and Joseph sanctified their family life by the exercise of the domestic virtues. There they practiced charity, mutual help, respect and obedience. There also they always found joy and peace in meditation and prayer in common. This Sunday the Church celebrates the Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph. We are commended to secure blessings for our families by meditating upon the virtues of the Holy Family. In order to make holy our own families, we do well to imitate those virtues possessed perfectly by the Holy Family. At this time I share with you a cherished Catholic prayer for families that you may wish to recite today with your loved ones:

“O God our Father, bind our families together. Banish anger and destroy bitterness within them; nourish forgiveness among them and develop a strong sense of peace. Bestow upon parents such wisdom and patience that they may greatly exercise the spirit of genuine Christ-like love and bring forth from their children their greatest virtues and the best that is in them. Instill in their children self-respect and right ideals, so that they may obey their parents and grow in their love and the joy of their companionship. Open ears to hear the truth another speaks; open eyes to see the reality beneath another’s appearance, and make family affection reflect the genuine sign of Christ’s love for all mankind. Amen.”

Sincerely yours in Christ,  
Father Petro

**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.

The *Te Deum*, “**You are God: We Praise You**,” is an ancient hymn of thanksgiving and praise to God. The Church grants a plenary indulgence to the Christian faithful who publicly recite this hymn on the last day of the year. The *Te Deum* will be sung in our church following Holy Communion at the 4 p.m. Mass on December 31.

**Fr. Petro wishes to thank** the parishioners from Sacred Heart of Jesus Church who were so generous in their gift giving and Christmas card sending. “I am deeply touched by the spirit of generosity so evident among so many of our people. Thank you for making this a very memorable Christmas! I thank also the members of our music apostolate and church decorators whose kind work added so much to our Christmas celebration.”

### PRAYER FOR THE HOUSEHOLD

*Exaudi nos* – May be recited by the family on New Year’s Day:  
“Hear us, Lord, and send your angel from heaven to visit and protect, to comfort and defend all who live in this house. Amen.”

**A New Year Blessing:** “You enter this church as a guest of God, your heavenly Father. Come with joy in your heart and thanks on your lips into His presence. Be grateful to the faithful who, in Jesus’ Name, built this place of worship, and to all who have beautified and hallowed it with their prayers and praise. Ask His blessing on those who love His house of faith as the inspiration of their labor, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit, and may that blessing rest on you in the New Year.”

**On the Solemnity of the Epiphany** there is an ancient custom of announcing the dates of Easter and other movable feasts for the coming year. This custom originated in the age when calendars were not readily available for much of the population. Next Sunday, the Epiphany Proclamation will take place after the proclamation of the Gospel. As this ancient announcement is read, simply be seated and listen to descriptions of the celebration of the central mysteries of our faith.

**Holy water will be blessed** at the 4 p.m. Vigil Mass of the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, Saturday, January 11. The Sprinkling Rite will be used in place of the Penitential Rite to remind us of our own baptisms at Mass that day. Please bless yourself with the sign of the cross as the priest sprinkles you with holy water at the start of Mass. Please feel free to bring a container to church to take home some of the newly blessed water. The Christmas season ends with the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord.

*Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish extends a warm welcome to all visitors and new parishioners in the parish.  
Happy New Year to all!*

### 2024-25 HOLY DAY MASS SCHEDULE

(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.

**Our Parish Office** will be closed Monday, December 30 at noon to January 1. It will open Thursday, January 2, 2025, at 8:30 a.m.

**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.

**First Saturday** is January 4. It is very important in these times to pray the Rosary, meditate for 15 minutes on the Mysteries, and make sacramental confession and Communion in reparation for sins and blasphemies against Mary’s Immaculate Heart. A Eucharistic Holy Hour will be held on Saturday, Jan. 4, from 2:45 to 3:45 pm in our church. All are invited to pray in preparation for the 4 pm Mass.

**If you have moved** in the past year, or have a new phone number or e-mail address, please let us know so our records will be up to date by contacting the Parish Office.

**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.

**CCD News:** There are no classes on Sunday, Dec. 29. Classes will resume on Sunday, Jan. 5.

**Free 2025 liturgical calendars** are now available in the narthex. Every Catholic household should have one!

**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!

**Cookie trays remain** in the church hall from cookies donated to our Cookie Walk. If you have a serving tray in the hall, please pick it up by the end of the week, otherwise it will be discarded.

**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](http://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 6 and 7<sup>th</sup> grade CCD classes to supply homeless men with new socks during winter. It runs until January 5. Please deposit them in the bin in the narthex.

**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.

**Our parish** needs more lectors and altar servers. More Eucharistic ministers are needed to visit the homebound and altar pappies to serve funerals and weekday Mass. If you believe that God is calling you to serve your brothers and sisters, please speak to Fr. Petro.

**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.

**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.

**Order of Alhambra**, caravan Alhambra #4, will host a Holy Hour on Sunday, January 12 at 2 pm in Christ the King Chapel on the campus of King's College, 29 W. North St., Wilkes-Barre. Intentions will be offered for special needs individuals and their families. The Order of Alhambra was founded in 1904 and assists those with intellectual disabilities. Eucharistic Adoration will be led by Fr. James McGahagan, caravan chaplain. All are invited to attend.

**The CCM Wafer Dinner** will be held on Saturday, Jan. 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 invited to attend and 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 by Jan. 5.

**CCM Wafer Dinner Reservation**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

No. Attending: \_\_\_\_\_ (member) \_\_\_\_\_ (guest)

**Monday (Dec. 30) Sixth Day within the Octave of Christmas**

7:30 am Robert Russick  
*by wife and family*

**Tuesday (Dec. 31) Seventh Day within the Octave of Christmas**

No 7:30 am Mass

**Vigil: Mary, the Holy Mother of God**

4:00 pm Joseph and Helen Kulick  
*by daughters, Ellie, Pat, Sue, MaryLou & Melanie*

**Wednesday (Jan. 1): Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God**

8:30 am Anna Sroka  
*by Thomas and Dorothy Sheridan*  
10:30 am Peter and Mary Yablonski  
*by family*

**Thursday (Jan. 2) Ss. Basil the Great & Gregory Nazianzen**

7:30 am Margaret Milewski  
*by John Luckasavage, Jr.*

**Friday (Jan. 3) The Holy Name of Jesus (First Friday)**

7:30 am Michael Satkowski  
*by Barbara and Ron Yurkavage*

**Saturday (Jan. 4) Vigil: The Epiphany of the Lord**

4:00 pm Bruno Marcellini  
*by wife and children*

**Sunday (Jan. 5) The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph**

8:30 am John Tetlak  
*by children, John, Ronald and Judith*  
10:30 am Our Parishioners (*Missa pro populo*)

*"His Heart... WEEKLY OFFERING ... Our Hands"*  
**Last Sunday: \$6,385.75**  
**Building Fund: \$85.00**  
*May the Lord reward your generosity.*

*The sanctuary candles burn this week in memory of:*  
Tabernacle: Irene Eustice, by Ron & Sharon Ziobro & family  
Blessed Mother: Denise Skrzysowski, by David & Alyssa Skrzysowski  
St. Joseph: Dorothy Sugalski, by Frank & Diane Skrzysowski & family  
St. Therese: Michael Rowan, by Catherine and John Helminiak  
❖  
*The offertory gifts of bread & wine this Sunday are donated in memory of Ray and Margie Cichocki, by Diane and Raymond Cichocki.*

UPCOMING EVENTS
Dec. 31/Jan.1: see New Year's Mass schedule
Jan. 3, 7:30 am, 1 <sup>st</sup> Friday Mass and devotions, church
Jan. 4, 2:45-3:45pm, 1 <sup>st</sup> 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
<b>Dec. 28-29</b>
<b>4pm:</b> EM: J. Barket, Lector: S. Bartosiewicz, Acolyte: Collins family
<b>8:30am:</b> EM: M. Moletsky, Lector: J. Roche, Acolyte: E. & J. Lyons
<b>10:30am:</b> EM: C. Wesley, Lector: G. Beccaloni, Acolyte: C., E., & J. Toalongo
<b>Dec. 31-Jan. 1: Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God</b>
<b>4pm:</b> EM: M. Pistack, Lector: A. Devlin, Acolyte: E. & J. Lyons
<b>8:30am:</b> EM: B. Jones, Lector: B. Jones, Acolyte: Collins family
<b>10:30am:</b> EM: J. Barket, Lector: M. Ferretti, Acolyte: A. & J. Rupperecht
<b>Jan. 4-5</b>
<b>4pm:</b> EM: C. Wesley, Lector: S. Bartosiewicz, Acolyte: C. Purdy
<b>8:30am:</b> EM: B. Jones, Lector: H. Vogue, Acolyte: C. & T. Papiercavich
<b>10:30am:</b> EM: D. Suchecki, Lector: T. Satkowski, Acolyte: C., E. & T. Toalongo

**Calling all Young Adults!** With the new year approaching, could you benefit from some renewal? Join in on a Day Retreat to start off the new year by being renewed in Christ! Saturday, Jan. 4, 2025, for ages 21-40, at St. Maria Goretti Church, Laflin. Doors open at 1:30pm, \$10 donation at the door. RSVP to Bridget Guarnieri at [familylife@dioceseofscranton.org](mailto:familylife@dioceseofscranton.org).

