

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.

✠ Second Sunday of Advent ♦ December 8, 2024 ✠

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

The Parochial Pen

My dear parishioners,

I am very happy to announce the continuation in our parish of the Polish custom of *kołęda*, or the annual blessing of homes. This is a pastoral visitation to your home by the priest which takes place during January, usually around the Solemnity of the Epiphany. The Blessing of a Home is not only a blessing for the structure, but for those who dwell therein. At the conclusion of the brief blessing, I will inscribe in chalk above the threshold of the main entrance to your home the following: 20 + C + M + B + 25. All those who enter or leave your home throughout the year will be blessed. Blessed white chalk is used for this purpose. There are two interpretations of the meaning of the letters. The more popular one holds that they stand for the names of the three wise men: Caspar, Melchior and Balthasar. Another states that it means *Christus mansionem benedicat*, which translates from Latin, “May Christ bless this dwelling.”

Please consider making this custom a part of your new year’s resolution to start the year off right, especially if you have a new or remodeled home. If you would like me 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.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Father Petro

Kołęda 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

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.

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.

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. 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.

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 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. 📍 📍 📍 📍

Our pre-mass classical music meditations continue Dec. 8 and Dec. 15, at 10am in church. The repertoire focuses on the Baroque Era, the Classical Era, and the Romantic Era. We hope that you will take advantage of this cultural opportunity during Advent to spiritually prepare for Christmas.

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.



Rev. Francis X. Kurkowski, the third pastor of our parish from 1916-1938, died on December 11, 1945. Please pray for the peaceful repose of his soul on the anniversary of his death.

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.

2025 Children’s Envelopes are now available for pick-up in the church narthex. If your child is not yet receiving envelopes, please contact the parish office ASAP.

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.

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!*

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 adult 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.

Cemetery clean-up: All families of those buried in Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish Cemetery are asked to be sure their graves are cleaned for the winter by removing all old decorations and dead flowers.

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.

“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 soon take place in our parish. Your pastor will team up with a well-known local personality to enter this year’s diocesan cooking competition. More information will be forthcoming!

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. 9) The Immaculate Conception of the BVM

7:30 am James Jones
by Stanley and Maureen Knick, Jr.

5:30 pm Irene Wojtach
by Ed and Carolyn Klimek

Tuesday (Dec. 10) Advent Weekday

7:30 am Wayne Lowe, Sr.
by Scott Hilenski

Wednesday (Dec. 11) St. Damasus

7:30 am Rev. Dennis Conway
by Mr. and Mrs. Gregory Purdy

Thursday (Dec. 12) Our Lady of Guadalupe

7:30 am Philomena Renfer
by David and Jennifer Zambo and family

Friday (Dec. 13) St. Lucy

7:30 am Joan Jemiola
by the Lenchak family

Saturday (Dec. 14) Vigil: 3rd Sunday of Advent

4:00 pm Edward Pistack
by wife, MaryAnn, and family

Sunday (Dec. 15) Third Sunday of Advent

8:30 am Elena Tomassetti
by Maria Elena and Thomas Petro
10:30 am Our Parishioners (*Missa pro populo*)

“His Heart... WEEKLY OFFERING ...Our Hands”
Last Sunday: \$4,612.59
Building Fund: \$324.00
Care and Education of Priests: \$549.00
May the Lord reward your generosity.

The sanctuary candles burn this week in memory of:
Tabernacle: *Dan Lello, by Elaine Lello and family*
Blessed Mother: *Patricia Lello, by Elaine Lello and family*
St. Joseph: *Tony and Mary Lello, by Elaine Lello and family*
St. Therese: *Edward Milewski, by John and Mary Ellen Milewski and family*
St. Francis: *Chester and Aldina Bartoli, by Elaine Lello and family*

✦
The offertory gifts of bread & wine this Sunday are donated in memory of Bonnie Morreale, by AnnMarie and Robert Devlin.

UPCOMING EVENTS
Dec. 8, 9:15-10:15am, CCD classes resume, school
Dec. 12, 6:30pm, Choir practice, choir loft
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. 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

Liturgical Volunteer Schedule
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
Dec. 9: Immaculate Conception of the BVM
7:30am: EM: Lector: B. Belles, Acolyte: E. Suchecki
5:30pm: EM: Lector: A. Devlin, Acolyte: <i>volunteers</i>
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

HNS Match the Daily Number raffle: \$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: \$15,075.00.

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