

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.

✠ The Presentation of the Lord ♦ February 2, 2025 ✠

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

The Parochial Pen

My dear parishioners,

In anticipation of our linkage with Queen of Apostles Parish in Avoca, I want to inform you of the timeline that has been set by the diocese's Office of Parish Life. They are responsible for managing a number of parish modifications over the next six months, in addition to our own. I support the good work being done on our behalf by Dominick Costantino, Jr., the Director of Parish Renewal of the Office for Parish Life. He is the contact person for the Avoca-Dupont linkage.

Diocesan officials will meet on Tuesday, February 25, with me and the members of our Pastoral and Finance Councils in our church hall. They will meet with our counterparts in Avoca the day prior. On the weekend of March 1/2, a letter from Bishop Bambera will be inserted in our bulletin to officially announce the linkage. I feel that it is good that these things take place before Lent begins to clear up any rumors.

Fr. Sladicka and I will then select six members from each of our parishes to form a Transition Team of twelve individuals to manage the process of change from one way of operating to another, bridging the transition from the old to the new. Transition Teams are an integral part of the Vision 2030 process. This Transition Team will meet about three times, beginning April 28, with each meeting lasting 90 minutes. Reading, research or other work may be required between sessions. A diocesan facilitator will assist the team.

The publication of a new Mass schedule in both bulletins is scheduled to occur on the weekend of May 24/25. The linkage of Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish and Queen of Apostles Parish will become effective on a date to be determined in July 2025. Please feel free to personally ask me any questions about the linkage as this transition process unfolds.

Sincerely yours in Christ,
Father Petro

2025 Polish Picnic - Friday, June 27, 5 to 9 p.m. & Saturday, June 28, 5 to 9 p.m. Our annual picnic is a family-friendly ethnic food festival that corresponds with the Solemnity of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus. All parishioners are invited to the next picnic meeting on Wednesday, February 12, at 6 p.m. in the church hall. Come to this meeting to learn more about the positive changes taking place to our picnic. This year's chairmen are Charyl Nagy, Joe Petro and Liz Tomko. They are currently in search of volunteers to help work the picnic. Please let them know that they can count on you to help with the many tasks required to run a successful picnic.

The Church celebrates the solemn *Feast of the Presentation of the Lord* on Feb. 2. This feast recalls the day on which Jesus Christ was presented in the temple by Mary and Joseph. According to ancient tradition, candles are blessed on this day, both those used in the church and the home. In accordance with the liturgy for the day, special candles will be blessed at Mass for the faithful to take home and use. Families have customarily lit them at the table for Easter and Christmas dinner, for sacramental visits of Holy Communion and Holy Anointing, and for blessed protection in lightning storms and power outages. The candles will be blessed in a special ritual with a procession at the 4:00 p.m. Mass on Saturday, February 1. The blessed candles may be obtained after the Mass for a donation of \$4 for a box of two "Candlemas" candles.

The Church celebrates the *Feast of St. Blaise* on Feb. 3. He was bishop of Sebaste in Armenia in the fourth century. Before being martyred, he is said to have healed a boy who was choking. He is venerated today as the patron of those who suffer from diseases of the throat. Using candles blessed the day before at the Mass of the Presentation of the Lord, the faithful will be blessed through the intercession of St. Blaise. Throats will be blessed after all weekend Masses February 1/2, as well as on February 3.

The Christmas Crib remains in our church until Candlemas. It can be found near the BVM side altar. Falling exactly 40 days after Christmas, Candlemas was observed as the official end of Christmas in medieval times. In some countries it is not unusual to retain some Christmas decorations until Candlemas on Feb. 2. Pope St. John Paul II would make his last visit to the crib in St. Peter's Square after celebrating the evening Mass on Feb. 2. After this visit the Nativity scene was dismantled. Consider making a visit to our crib this year!

Requests for 2024 Contribution Statements for tax purposes can be made by contacting Kathy at the parish office.

Our Ash Wednesday Potato Pancake & Lenten Food Sale will be held on Wed., March 5, from 11 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. in the church garage. Our Holy Name Society will make haluski, and our CCM will provide pierogi. If anyone would like to volunteer to make meatless soups, or volunteer in any way, call Charyl Nagy: 570-540-5478. This number accepts messages. Please give your name if texting. Food will be sold on a first-come, first-served basis.

The World Day of the Sick is Tuesday, February 11, the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes. Fr. Petro will celebrate a Mass for the Sick at 7:30 a.m. in the church. During the Mass there will be a communal celebration of the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick for anyone acutely or chronically ill, anyone suffering a debilitating condition, anyone facing surgery, the elderly, and all who might be a candidate for this sacrament.

Please return the blessed palm received last Palm Sunday by Feb. 28. They will be burnt and the resulting ash used to sign the faithful on Ash Wednesday. A basket for palm branches is in the narthex.

Catechumens Ryan and Brittany Field, along with their daughters Nora and Emily, are currently receiving religious instruction from Fr. Petro and the R.C.I.A. team. We look forward to welcoming them into the Church at this year's Easter Vigil. Pray for this family from Lackawanna Avenue in Dupont as they all prepare for baptism.

ADULT ACOLYTES NEEDED: our parish is now in the process of recruiting adult men to serve as acolytes at Mass. They would be principally used to serve funeral Masses and other liturgies when youth altar servers are unavailable. They would also help serve weekday Mass when needed. No prior experience is necessary. Contact Fr. Petro if you feel called to serve as an acolyte.

First Saturday is Feb. 1. 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, Feb. 1, from 2:45 to 3:45 pm in our church. All are invited to pray in preparation for the 4 pm Mass.

Wedding anniversary celebration: Bishop Bambera and the Office of Parish Life invite couples celebrating their 25th or 50th Wedding Anniversary in 2025 to a Diocesan Wedding Anniversary Mass on Sunday, June 29. The event includes Mass at 2:30 pm at St. Peter's Cathedral followed by a reception. For more information, please call 570-207-2213 or email: familylife@dioceseofscranton.org

Super Bowl Sunday HNS Hoagie Sale

Pick up date: Sunday, February 9, 9am – 12pm in the church hall.
 Please return this form with payment to the
 Parish Office no later than February 3.

\$9 each: All hoagies are 10 inches long and come with lettuce & tomato. Special orders cannot be taken.

Please write quantity of each on the line provided:

ITALIAN: _____

TURKEY AND AMERICAN CHEESE: _____

Name: _____

Phone No.: _____

I have enclosed \$ _____ for my order.

Payment must accompany all orders. Thank you!

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** also 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.

Once a young adult parishioner turns eighteen, it is proper that regular adult envelopes are requested for them. They will be given their own contribution number and envelopes will be mailed to them just like their parents. All adults, from age 18 and up, are requested to support their parish by donating their monthly dues, which are currently \$6.00. This is considered the bare minimum of financial support expected for “active parishioners.” When requesting a sponsor card for baptism or confirmation, seeking to celebrate matrimony, or desiring burial in our parish cemetery, one must be an active parishioner, i.e., one who practices the Faith and supports their parish. If you are 18 years of age or older, and are not currently receiving contribution envelopes, please notify Kathy at the parish office so that your census information may be updated.

Requiescat in pace: pray for the peaceful repose of the soul of Walter Ruda who was recently buried from our church.

The ongoing issue of fraudulent/spam emails has impacted many of our parishes in varying ways over the last few years. Spammers have tried multiple times to spoof various church addresses, attempting to deceive recipients into taking action or sharing sensitive information. These scams seem to be increasing, and parishioners need to remain vigilant. Be cautious of any unsolicited emails requesting money, personal information, or immediate action, especially if the tone seems urgent or unusual. Always verify the sender’s address, and, if in doubt, contact a church office directly by phone or through known, trusted channels. If you are impacted by a fake email of your own, and the fake email is from a Google account (@gmail.com) – you can report the fake email directly to Google: https://support.google.com/mail/contact/abuse?visit_id=638732645980081840-1574789756&rd=1. On that page you can copy and paste components of the fake email into the form.

Mass for Persons with Disabilities: On Sunday, February 9 at 10am, Bishop Bambera will celebrate a “Mass for Persons with Disabilities” at St. Peter’s Cathedral, Scranton. All are invited to attend this Mass to celebrate the gifts those with physical, developmental, or intellectual disabilities bring to the Church.

The 2024-25 Catholic Ministries Appeal: All parishioners are asked to contribute to this Appeal that aids the education of seminarians, cares for the poor, subsidizes Catholic schools, and supports diocesan media. Our parish goal is \$32,953. Raised to date: \$18,500.

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. This spiritual care is offered to any parishioner who, because of illness or advanced age, cannot leave their homes and attend Mass. Home visitation may be requested for a certain period of recovery time or for a more permanent basis. The sacraments of confession and anointing of the sick are offered to all homebound parishioners every Advent and Lent.

Parish families are needed to bring up the gifts of bread and wine in the offertory procession for the weekend Masses. Would you consider accepting this honor? *At least two volunteers are needed for each of the weekend Masses.*

Monday (Feb. 3) St. Blaise

7:30 am Walter Ruda
 by sister, Patricia

Tuesday (Feb. 4) Weekday

7:30 am Barbara Urtishak
 by Betty Belles

Wednesday (Feb. 5) St. Agatha

7:30 am Theresa Haduch
 by Julie and Steve Kresge

Thursday (Feb. 6) St. Paul Miki and Companions

7:30 am Donna Bartosiewicz
 by Robert, Gene and Sharon Bartosiewicz

Friday (Feb. 7) Weekday (First Friday)

7:30 am John and Anna Golya
 by granddaughter, Jackie Kmiec

Saturday (Feb. 8) Vigil: 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time

4:00 pm John and Anna Curgali
 by Maria Vojta

Sunday (Feb. 9) The Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:30 am Our Parishioners (*Missa pro populo*)
 10:30 am Marie Poplawski
 by John and Susan Baker and family

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

Last Sunday: \$5,031.75

Building Fund: \$118.00

Initial Offering: \$702.00

Insurance: \$849.00

Church in Latin America: \$130.00

May the Lord reward your generosity.

The sanctuary candles burn this week in memory of:

Tabernacle: Julie and Sy Hudzinski, by Diana and Mark Kremitske

Blessed Mother: intentions of Catherine Helminiak, by Georgann Gall

St. Joseph: John Lopata, by Bob Lopata

St. Therese: Beverly Moletsky, by Brian and Michele Moletsky

St. Francis: Susan Matthews, by the Purdy family.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Feb. 1, 2:45-3:45pm, 1st Saturday Adoration/devotions, church
- Feb. 2, Candlemas Day
- Feb. 2, 9:30am, First Penance meeting, school
- Feb. 3, 6pm, CCM meeting, church hall
- Feb. 5, 6pm, RCIA, church hall
- Feb. 5, 7pm, HNS meeting, church hall
- Feb. 6, 6:30pm, Choir practice, choir loft
- Feb. 7, 7:30 am, 1st Friday Mass and devotions, church
- Feb. 9, 10:30am, CCD Mass, grade 1 assists
- Feb. 11, 7:30am, Healing Mass
- Feb. 12, 6pm, Picnic meeting, church hall
- Feb. 12, 6pm, RCIA “church tour”
- Feb. 13, 6:30pm, Choir practice, choir loft
- Feb. 19, 6pm, RCIA, church hall
- Feb. 20, 6:30pm, Choir practice, choir loft
- Feb. 25, 6:30pm, Pastoral/Finance Councils meet, church hall

Liturgical Volunteer Schedule

Feb. 1-2
4pm: EM: M. Pistack, Lector: S. Bartosiewicz, Acolyte: C. Purdy
8:30am: EM: M. Moletsky, Lector: J. Klenner, Acolyte: C. & T. Papiercavich
10:30am: EM: D. Suchecki, Lector: T. Satkowski, Acolyte: C., E. & J. Toalongo
Feb. 8-9
4pm: EM: M. Pistack, Lector: A. Devlin, Acolyte: Collins family
8:30am: EM: B. Jones, Lector: J. Roche, Acolyte: E. & J. Lyons
10:30am: EM: C. Wesley, Lector: L. Rupprecht, Acolyte: A. & J. Rupprecht

St. Joseph Marelo Parish, 237 William St., Pittston, will hold their annual Big Prize Bingo on Sunday, Mar. 30, in their Parish Hall. Doors open at 12:30pm and games begin at 2pm. Prizes include home goods, outdoor items, purses and cash. Tickets cost: \$25 in advance or \$30 at the door. Tickets include 20 regular games. Special games and additional regular games will be available for purchase as well as bingo dabbers and other fun extras. Food and beverages will be available for purchase. Call 570-654-6902 to reserve your tickets. Tables will be reserved on a first-come, first-served basis for parties of 8-10. Seating for parties of less than 8 will be on a first-come, first-served basis.