

Sacred Heart of Jesus Church

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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.

✠ First Sunday of Lent ♦ March 9, 2025 ✠

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

The Parochial Pen

My dear parishioners,

With the practice of *in vitro* fertilization (IVF) likely to return to the national spotlight with the recent executive order by the president, I wish to share with you the teachings of the Church regarding the ethics of IVF. These teachings are meant to assist those who are confronting issues or have questions related to fertility issues. IVF is always mortally sinful. It represents a profitable and underregulated industry that does not address the causes of human infertility but seeks to override the symptoms - and is regularly ineffective at doing so. Yet patients are often placed on an IVF track after limited testing and waiting periods.

IVF kills or freezes millions of our preborn brothers and sisters. The IVF process creates more embryos than are “successfully” implanted within a womb. For every birth by IVF, there are other embryonic baby siblings who die in the process, are selectively killed because they are deemed too weak, or are condemned to suspended animation in a frozen state. IVF is a distortive intervention of third parties and technology into the exclusive marital bond and act of mutual self-gift of husband and wife. A new human life is a gift. No one, no matter how earnest their intentions or desires, can claim a “right” to have a child. The profound and intense desire to have children is both natural and good. It is from God. IVF is from man.

Sincerely yours in Christ,
Father Petro

A BIG THANK YOU to all our wonderful parishioners who helped to make our Polish Lenten Food Sale so very successful. There is still a chance to get some food! After Masses this weekend in the church hall, halushki will be sold for the discounted price of \$3 a pint, eggs by the dozen for \$7.50 and lentil soup for \$10 a quart.

Our Holy Name Society wishes to thank everyone who supported their recent Super Bowl Sunday Hoagie Sale. The net profit from the sale was \$400.

RCIA: Two catechumens from our parish, Ryan Field and Brittany (Seigle) Field, are currently meeting with Fr. Petro to receive instructions in the Faith. They are preparing to receive the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist at the Easter Vigil this year in our church. Their two daughters will also be baptized at the Easter Vigil. This Sunday, March 9, they will celebrate the Rite of Election at St. Peter's Cathedral with Bishop Bambera. They will receive a blessing at 10:30 a.m. Sunday Mass before they are sent to Scranton.

Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are days of fasting and abstinence from meat. All Fridays during Lent are days of abstinence from meat. Fasting prescribes that only one full meal be taken. Two smaller meals may be taken to maintain strength, but these taken should not equal another full meal. Fasting obliges from the 18th to the 59th birthday. Abstinence forbids the eating of meat. Abstinence obliges from the 14th birthday on.

Stations of the Cross will be prayed in common each Friday evening throughout Lent at 7 p.m. in our church. Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament will occur immediately after the Stations. You are invited to walk with Our Lord along the Way of Sorrows and gaze upon the beauty of his Presence. Do not miss the opportunity to be drawn closer to Him.

A Prayer for the Process of Linking Parishes

Heavenly Father, we come to you today asking for wisdom and support as we begin this parish linkage. May everything we do begin with your inspiration and continue with your help.

We ask for guidance throughout this linkage that all of our thoughts and actions would reflect your Holy will. Remember that all of our concerns are aimed at the spiritual transformation of our parish communities.

We do ask you to grant us the grace to love you and our neighbors more perfectly. And to remind us that all we do each day is for the pursuit of truth for the greater glory of you. We ask all these things in your name. Amen

As our parish prepares to link with Queen of Apostles Parish (St. Mary's Church, Avoca) under the care of one pastor effective July 1, 2025, we are encouraged to recite this prayer daily.

SAVE THE DATE!

**Join us for a celebration in honor of
Fr. Petro's 25th Anniversary of Ordination!**

Tuesday, June 24, 2025

A special Mass will be celebrated, followed by dinner in the picnic grove. Details and RSVP form will be forthcoming!

A “**Poor Man's Supper**” will be held by our 8th grade Confirmation class on Fridays in March from 6 to 6:50 pm. This is a meatless potluck dinner and gathering for parishioners to come together in the hall before praying the Stations together. If you want to bring a Lenten dish, that is good; if not, just join us. March 14 has Dr. Christopher Carr coming to talk about Purgatory, and March 21 is Dr. Jayne Klenner discussing faith-based counseling. March 28 is Dr. Carmina Chapp of the Dorothy Day Catholic Worker Farm, Harvey's Lake, who will talk about her farm and the Movement. All are invited, old and young!

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, March 19, at 6 p.m. in the church hall. This year's chairmen are Charyl Nagy, Joe Petro and Liz Tomko.

THE LIGHT IS ON FOR YOU: on Mondays of Lent, Confessions will be heard in our church from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. on these dates: March 10, 17, 24, 31 and Apr. 7. The deanery penance service will be on April 14, 6:30pm, at St. John the Evangelist Church, Pittston.

Lenten CCD Confessions: Fr. Petro will be hearing the confessions of our CCD students in church during the school period. CCD confessions will be heard as follows: Mar. 16 – grade 6 & 7, Mar. 23 – grades 3, 4 & 5.

A New Mass setting will be used for the season of Lent. It is the Latin setting for the people's sung responses at Mass.

An American Red Cross Blood Drive will be held in our church hall on Thursday, May 8, 12 - 4:30 p.m. Please save the date!

CCM members and others are invited to help make chocolate Easter eggs in the church hall on Saturday, March 29 at 9 a.m. and Wednesday, April 2 and Thursday, April 3.

Please make use of the Easter Flower envelope in your offertory envelope pack. Donations will help defray the cost of purchasing flowers to adorn our sanctuary for Easter.

Homemade Milk Chocolate Easter Egg Sale

~ 1 oz. eggs: 6 for \$12 and 4 oz. eggs: \$7 each ~

Pick-up date: April 12 & 13 after all Masses, in the church hall. Return this form with payment by dropping it in the collection basket no later than March 23. Please write quantity of each on the line:

PEANUT BUTTER: 1 oz. x _____ 4 oz. x _____

COCONUT CREAM: 1 oz. x _____ 4 oz. x _____

Name: _____

Phone No.: _____

I have enclosed \$ _____ for my order.

Payment must accompany all orders. Thank you! - CCM

“Rectory, Set, Cook!”, a Catholic anti-hunger and anti-homelessness fundraising initiative, has begun! Scranton diocesan priests have volunteered to make cooking videos. Viewers are invited to vote for their favorite videos online by contributing \$10 per vote. We hope you take a moment to watch and vote for “Team Dupont” as Seminarian Jeremy Barket joins Fr. Petro in the making of HALUSHKI. You can donate any time from March 4 through April 15, 2025. All proceeds will benefit Catholic Social Services’ food kitchens, pantries, homeless shelters and our parish. To watch the video and place your vote, visit the diocesan website.

Gorzkie zale, the traditional Polish-language Lenten devotion known as the “Bitter Lamentations,” will be held on Sunday, April 6, at 3 pm in our church. The devotion is a sung reflection on the Passion of Christ and his Sorrowful Mother. Our choir will lead us in the singing. Msgr. Neil Van Loon, pastor of St. Paul Church, Scranton, will be the guest homilist. A light reception will follow in the church hall. All are invited to attend.

The traditional Slovak Stations of the Cross and Lenten Hymn Sing will be held on Sunday, Mar. 30 at St. Ignatius Church, 339 N. Maple Ave., Kingston. The service will conclude with Benediction. Refreshments will follow. For details, call Anna at 570-510-1655.

An Easter Food Drive is being sponsored by our 3rd grade CCD students during Lent. Parishioners are invited to bring non-perishable foods to church and place them in the bin located in the narthex from March 5 until Sunday, March 30. This drive is done with the help of the Knights of Columbus, Council 372.

The Road to Resurrection schedule for Lent 2025

- Wednesday, March 12:** Mass at 7 p.m. Sacred Heart of Jesus Church, Dupont
- Wednesday March 19 (Solemnity of St. Joseph):** Mass at 7 p.m. Oblates of St. Joseph Seminary, Laflin
- Wednesday, March 26:** Mass at 7 p.m. St. Maria Goretti Church, Laflin
- Wednesday, April 2:** Mass at 7 p.m. St. Anthony of Padua Church, Exeter
- Wednesday, April 9:** Mass at 7 p.m. Holy Rosary Church, Duryea

The Diocese of Scranton is seeking to fill the position of Safe Environment Coordinator who will be responsible for the ongoing development of a system to monitor State Police Criminal Record Checks, Child Abuse History Clearances, and FBI finger printing for employees and volunteers within the Diocese. The job description is posted on the diocesan website. Applications by March 24, 2025 to: James R. Burke, 300 Wyoming Ave., Scranton, PA 18503.

Holy Saturday Kolache Sale

~ Only \$15 each, freshly made by Bakery Delite! ~

Pick-up date: Saturday, April 19, 11am - 1:30pm in the church hall during the blessing of Easter baskets. Return this form with payment to the Parish Office no later than March 24. Please write quantity of each on the line provided:

NUT ROLL: _____

POPPY SEED ROLL: _____

CHEESE ROLL: _____

Name: _____

Phone No.: _____

I have enclosed \$ _____ for my order.

Payment must accompany all orders. Thank you! - HNS

Monday (Mar. 10) Lenten Weekday

7:30 am Mildred Mlodzienski
by family

Tuesday (Mar. 11) Lenten Weekday

7:30 am Joseph Mihalka
by Lisa Morreale

Wednesday (Mar. 12) Lenten Weekday

7:30 am James Lopata
by Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Budzilek and family

Thursday (Mar. 13) Lenten Weekday

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

Friday (Mar. 14) Lenten Weekday

7:30 am Robert and Helen Sedlak
by children and grandchildren

7:00 pm Stations of the Cross & Benediction

Saturday (Mar. 15) Vigil: 2nd Sunday of Lent

4:00 pm Our Parishioners (*Missa pro populo*)

Sunday (Mar. 16) The Second Sunday of Lent

8:30 am Deceased members of our Holy Name Society
by Sacred Heart HNS

10:30 am John Herbert Lewis
by family

“His Heart... WEEKLY OFFERING ...Our Hands”
Last Sunday: \$5,528.91
Building Fund: \$417.00
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: George Balent, by his brother, Joseph
St. Francis: Leonard, Marlene and Richard Milewski, by family

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Mar. 9, 10:30am Mass, Rite of Sending for Catechumens, church
- Mar. 10, 5:30-6:30pm, Confessions, church
- Mar. 12, 7pm, Road to Resurrection, church
- Mar. 13, 6:30pm, Choir practice, choir loft
- Mar. 14, 6pm, Poor Man’s Supper, hall
- Mar. 14, 7pm, Stations of the Cross, church
- Mar. 17, 5:30-6:30pm, Confessions, church
- Mar. 19, 6pm, Picnic meeting, hall
- Mar. 20, 6:30pm, Choir practice, choir loft
- Mar. 21, 6pm, Poor Man’s Supper, hall
- Mar. 21, 7pm, Stations of the Cross, church
- Mar. 24, 5:30-6:30pm, Confessions, church
- Mar. 27, 6:30pm, Choir practice, choir loft

Liturgical Volunteer Schedule

- Mar. 8-9**
- 4pm:** EM: C. Wesley, Lector: A. Devlin, Acolyte: E. & J. Lyons
- 8:30am:** EM: M. Moletsky, Lector: G. Purdy, Acolyte: C. Purdy
- 10:30am:** EM: B. Jones, Lector: L. Rupprecht, Acolyte: A. & J. Rupprecht
- Mar. 12: Road to Resurrection**
- 7pm:** Lector: B. Jones, Acolyte: Elijah & Josiah Lyons, A. & J. Rupprecht
- Mar. 14: Stations of the Cross**
- 7pm:** Collins family
- Mar. 15-16**
- 4pm:** EM: M. Pistack, Lector: S. Bartosiewicz Acolyte: Collins family
- 8:30am:** EM: volunteer, Lector: H. Vogue, Acolyte: C. & T. Papiercavich
- 10:30am:** EM: C. Wesley, Lector: G. Beccaloni, Acolyte: C., E. & J. Toalongo

† Prayer before a Crucifix †

Good and gentle Jesus, I kneel before you. I see and I ponder your five wounds. My eyes behold what David prophesied about you: “They have pierced my hands and feet; they have counted all my bones.” Engrave on me this image of yourself. Fulfill the yearnings of my heart: give me faith, hope, and love, repentance for my sins, and true conversion of life. Amen.

On any Friday during Lent, a plenary indulgence is granted the Christian faithful who, after Communion, devoutly recite the above prayer before an image of Jesus Christ crucified. On other days of the year the indulgence is a partial one.