

# 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.

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## ✠ Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord ♦ April 13, 2025 ✠

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

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The Parochial Pen

My dear parishioners,

On Palm Sunday, we remember Our Lord's triumphant entry into Jerusalem and prepare our hearts for Holy Week, remembering his suffering, death, and resurrection. I encourage you today to utilize the following ancient prayer that dates from around A.D. 700. It was recited at the start of Palm Sunday Mass and puts in proper perspective the spiritual aim of this beautiful liturgy, at which we receive the blessed palm branches to preserve in homes throughout the year.

“O God, whom to cherish and to love is righteousness, multiply in us the gifts of your ineffable grace; and since you have given us in the death of your Son to hope for those things which we believe, grant us by his resurrection to attain the end to which we aspire. Who lives and reigns forever and ever. Amen.”

Sincerely yours in Christ,  
Father Petro

**A solemn blessing and procession of palms** will be held prior to the 10:30 am Mass at our church on Palm Sunday, April 13. The faithful are asked to report to the school prior to 10:30 am. The palms will be blessed there, and all will process into the church for Mass. The choir will lead us in song as we process through the rectory driveway, up the ramp and into the church.

**Little Bethlehem Christians** is a group that represents over 300 Christian families who live in the Holy Land and make their living as wood carvers. After all Masses on the weekend of April 12/13, the group represented by the Alshouri family will have for sale a collection of hand carved religious items made from olive wood. Profits will help support Christianity in the Holy land.

**Homemade Chocolate Egg** pick-up will be before and after all Masses the weekend of April 12/13 in the church hall.

**The Second Sunday of Easter**, April 27, is also known as the Solemnity of Divine Mercy. Jesus Christ has promised to grant complete forgiveness of sins and punishment on Divine Mercy Sunday as recorded in the diary of St. Maria Faustina. The spiritual conditions for this indulgence are as follows: attend Mass on Divine Mercy Sunday, sincerely repent of all our sins and place our complete trust in Jesus, go to confession preferably before that Sunday, receive Holy Communion on that Sunday, venerate the Divine Mercy image, and be merciful to others through our actions, words and prayers on their behalf. *We will celebrate a holy hour of Eucharistic Adoration on Divine Mercy Sunday, April 27 at 3 p.m. in our church.* At this time special prayers will be said and the chaplet will be prayed in common. Confessions will also be heard. Please plan to attend to receive many graces. “Jesus, I trust in you!”

**Our parish will sing** “Missa Simplex” setting for the Triduum and “The Heritage Mass” for the sung parts of all Masses for the Easter season. Please participate in the Mass by singing the responses.

**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.

**The parish office** will be closed on Holy Thursday and on Good Friday. It will open again on Monday, April 21, 8:30am-12pm.

**The 2025 Paschal Candle** has been donated by Maria Vojta in memory of George Vojta.

**Thank you** to the CCM and all those who donated goodies for our reception following last Sunday's *Gorzkie zale* devotions. Tony and our choir did a great job singing the Polish hymns!

**The deanery penance service** will be on April 14, 6:30pm, at St. John the Evangelist Church, Pittston. There will not be the “Light is on for You” 5:30pm Confessions that day in our church.

**The Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper** will be celebrated in our church on Thursday, Apr. 17 at 7 pm. This Mass commemorates Jesus' institution of the Holy Eucharist, His Holy Priesthood and His Holy Command to love and serve one another. *All Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion are requested to vest in their albs and participate in the Eucharistic procession. All adult and youth altar servers are also encouraged to vest and participate. Our First Holy Communion children will also participate.* Holy Communion will be administered under both kinds. 12 HNS men will have their feet washed. The Blessed Sacrament will be reposed in the church for a period of silent adoration until 10 pm when Night Prayer will be celebrated. Members of the Holy Name Society and the Confraternity of Christian Mothers will assist with adoration and pray the rosary.

**The faithful who devoutly visit** the Blessed Sacrament in the repository on Holy Thursday, and recite *Our Father, Hail Mary and Glory be*, five times in order to return due thanks for the institution of the Holy Eucharist, and one *Our Father, Hail Mary and Glory be* for the intentions of the Pope, are granted a plenary indulgence.

**On Good Friday**, our parish will take up the annual collection for the Holy Land. We ask you to be generous. Your financial contribution will support the works of the Catholic Church in the Middle East and to protect the Holy Places and Christian shrines.

**Adoration of the Cross:** a *plenary indulgence* is granted the Christian faithful who devoutly take part in the adoration of the cross during the solemn liturgy of Good Friday.

**The blessing of Easter food** will be held on Holy Saturday, April 19, at 11:30am and 1 pm in the church hall. The faithful are invited to bring the cooked food that they will eat on Easter Sunday in baskets for blessing. This Eastern European custom spiritually links the nourishment we receive from our table with the nourishment we receive from the Eucharist. **\*\*Our Holy Name Society will distribute the pre-ordered *kolaczki* in the hall that day, 11 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.**

**Homemade pizzelles by Mike Silla** will be sold by our Holy Name Society on Saturday, April 19, 11am - 1:30pm in the church hall during the blessing of Easter baskets. Pizzelles will be available in anise flavor and vanilla with sprinkles. They will be sold in containers of 8 pieces for \$5 while supplies last!

**The *Rezurekcja* (Resurrection) procession** will take place during the 7:30 a.m. Easter Mass according to the Polish custom by the Holy Name Society members. The Easter Sequence will be proclaimed and the Renewal of Baptismal Promises will take the place of the Creed at all the Easter Sunday Masses.

**CCD News:** classes will be canceled on April 20 for Easter.

### EASTER TRIDUUM SCHEDULE

#### Thursday (April 17) Holy Thursday

7:00 pm Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper

10:00 pm Eucharistic Reposition & Night Prayer

#### Friday (April 18) Good Friday

3:00 pm Liturgy

7:00 pm Stations of the Cross

#### Saturday (April 19) Holy Saturday

11:30 am Blessing of Easter food baskets

1:00 pm Blessing of Easter food baskets

8:00 pm Easter Vigil Mass

#### Sunday (April 20) Easter Sunday Masses:

7:30 am, 9:30 am, 11:00 am

All the faithful of the Diocese are invited to attend the Chrism Mass at St. Peter's Cathedral, Scranton, on Tues., Apr. 15 at 4 p.m. At this Mass priests from throughout the Diocese will renew their priestly promises before the Bishop, and the oils to be used for the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, Anointing of the Sick and Holy Orders will be blessed. Participation in the Chrism Mass is a beautiful way to pray for our diocesan priests.

**“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 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.

**Good Friday** is a day 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 18<sup>th</sup> to the 59<sup>th</sup> birthday. Abstinence forbids the eating of meat. Abstinence obliges from the 14<sup>th</sup> birthday on.

**Lenten prayer intentions:** Please pray for an increase in vocations to the priesthood and religious life, peace in Palestine and in Ukraine, and for the persecuted Christians in Iraq and Syria.

The **Easter bunny** will be appearing with a basket of goodies after the 9:30 and 11 a.m. Masses on Easter Sunday at the church steps. We thank the Holy Name Society for continuing this custom.

**Congratulations** to the HNS 300 Club Week 4 winners: 1<sup>st</sup> prize: \$100, Jack Bachkosky, 2<sup>nd</sup> prize: \$50, Richard Chin, 3<sup>rd</sup> prize: \$25, John Baiera, 4<sup>th</sup> prize: \$25, Gianna Hornlein.

**Our 2025 Polish Picnic** will be held at the very start of summer on Friday, June 27, 5 to 9 p.m. and 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. The list of chairs is as follows: Picnic Chairmen - Charyl Nagy, Joe Petro, Liz Tomko; Theme Baskets - Marie Ferretti; Kitchen/Food Distribution - Mary Griffin; Beverages - Mark Kowalczyk; Food Runners - Beth Purdy; Children’s Games - Rupprecht family; Potato Pancake Garage - Ed Suchecki; Entertainment/Electrical - Mike Silla, Sr.; Profit Intake - Julie Bingham. Chairs are still needed for Grounds set-up/clean-up, Advertising/Signage, Inventory/Ordering, and Picnic Raffle.

**Instant Lottery Ticket donations sought for the Picnic:** please donate new instant lottery scratch off tickets for the lottery game. Kindly deposit them in the collection basket. Liquor donations are still being accepted. Thank you!

**SAVE THE DATE!** Join us for a celebration in honor of Fr. Petro’s 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Priestly Ordination on Tuesday, June 24, 2025. A special Mass will be celebrated at 5:30 p.m., followed by a pig roast in the picnic grove. RSVP form will be forthcoming!

**“Operation Rice Bowl”** cardboard boxes may be returned before the end of Lent by placing them in the collection basket. Returns are now being accepted of your spare change.

**An American Red Cross Blood Drive** will be held in our hall on Thurs., May 8, 12 - 4:30 p.m. Go to [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org) to schedule an appointment.

**Requiescat in pace:** please pray for the peaceful repose of the soul of Paul Opalack who was recently buried from our church.

**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.*

**Monday (Apr. 14) Monday of Holy Week**

7:30 am Joyce Renfer Morreale  
by children and grandchildren

**Tuesday (Apr. 15) Tuesday of Holy Week**

7:30 am Joseph Pigma  
by the Stonikinis family

**Wednesday (Apr. 16) Wednesday of Holy Week**

7:30 am Dominick Morreale  
by children and grandchildren

**Thursday (Apr. 17) Holy Thursday of the Lord’s Supper**

7:00 pm Eugene and Eleanor Bartosiewicz  
by Gene, Sharon & Robert Bartosiewicz & Megan Gusinski

10:00 pm Night Prayer

**Friday (Apr. 18) Good Friday of the Lord’s Passion**

3:00 pm Liturgy of the Lord’s Passion  
7:00 pm Stations of the Cross

**Saturday (Apr. 19) Holy Saturday Vigil in the Holy Night**

8:00 pm Our Parishioners (*Missa pro populo*)

**Sunday (Apr. 20) Easter Sunday of the Lord’s Resurrection**

7:30 am Stella Dobranski  
by family  
9:30 am Henry and Mary Czarnecki  
by Maryann Czarnecki  
11:00 am Victoria Tetlak  
by the Para and Ferretti families

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

**Last Sunday:** \$5,361.31  
**Building Fund:** \$496.00  
**Easter Flowers:** \$829.00  
**Rice Bowl:** \$405.00  
**Care and Education of Priests:** \$391.00  
*May the Lord reward your generosity.*

*The sanctuary candles burn this week in memory of:  
Tabernacle: Theresa Gayza, by Marian Wanielista..*

✦  
*The offertory gifts of bread & wine this Sunday are donated in memory of Walter, Sr., Helen, and Walter Ruda, Jr., by Pat Ruda.*

Apr. 17, 7pm, Evening Mass of the Lord’s Supper, church
Apr. 17, 10 pm, Night Prayer, church
Apr. 18, 3pm, Good Friday Liturgy, church
Apr. 18, 7pm, Stations of the Cross, church
Apr. 19, 11:30 am & 1 pm, blessing of Easter food, hall
Apr. 19, 8 pm, Easter Vigil in the Holy Night, church
Apr. 20, 7:30, 9:30, & 11 am, Easter Sunday Masses
Apr. 24, 6:30pm, Choir practice, choir loft
Apr. 27, 3pm, Divine Mercy Sunday Holy Hour, church
May 4, 10:30am, First Holy Communion, church
May 5, 6pm, CCM Mothers’ Day Dinner, hall

<b>Liturgical Volunteer Schedule</b>
<b>Apr. 12-13: Palm Sunday</b>
<b>4pm:</b> EM: M. Pistack, Lector: A. Devlin, J. Klenner, Acolyte: Collins family
<b>8:30am:</b> EM: M. Moletsky, Lector: J. Roche, B. Jones, Acolyte: C. & T. Papiercavich, A. & J. Rupprecht
<b>10:30am:</b> EM: D. Suchecki, Lector: M. Ferretti, T. Satkowski, Acolyte: E. & J. Lyons, C., E. & J. Toalongo
<b>Apr. 17: Holy Thursday</b>
<b>7pm:</b> EM: B. Jones, M. Moletsky, C. Wesley, Lector: S. Bartosiewicz, Acolyte: E. & J. Lyons, A. & J. Rupprecht
<b>Apr. 18: Good Friday</b>
<b>3pm:</b> no EM needed, Lector: S. Bartosiewicz, G. Beccaloni, Acolyte: E. & J. Lyons, C., E., & J. Toalongo
<b>Apr. 18, Stations of the Cross:</b> E. Lyons, A. & J. Rupprecht
<b>Apr. 19: Easter Food Blessing (church hall)</b>
<b>11:30am:</b> Acolyte: Collins <b>1pm:</b> Rupprecht
<b>Apr. 19: Easter Vigil</b>
<b>8pm:</b> EM: volunteer needed, Lector: B. Jones, L. Rupprecht, Acolyte: Collins family, A. & J. Rupprecht
<b>Apr. 20: Easter Sunday</b>
<b>7:30am:</b> EM: D. Suchecki, Lector: J. Roche, Acolyte: E. Suchecki
<b>9:30am:</b> EM: M. Moletsky, Lector: C. Purdy, Acolyte: C., E., & J. Toalongo
<b>11:00am:</b> EM: C. Wesley, Lector: M. Ferretti, Acolyte: E. & J. Lyons