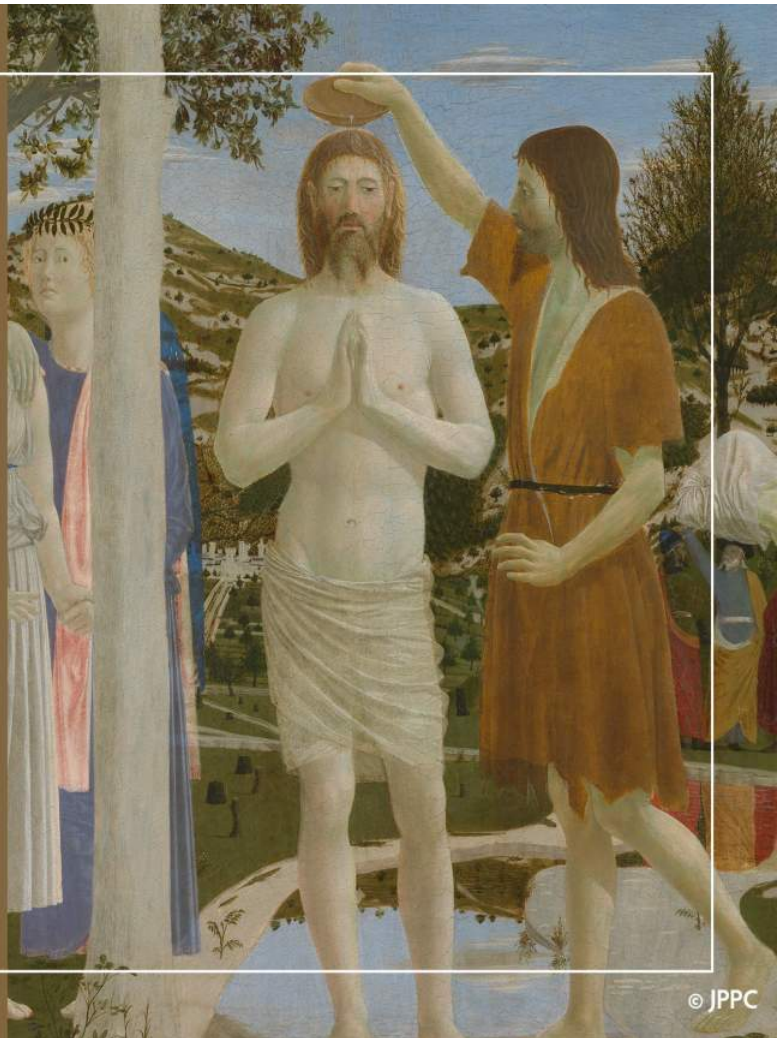


Sacred Heart Parish

120 Jefferson Street ~ Swedesburg, Pennsylvania, 19405
(610) 275-1750

You are my
beloved Son;
with you I am
well pleased.

LUKE 3:22



Rev. Peter J. DiMaria
Pastor

frdimaria@shswedesburg.org

Rev. Thomas A. Nasta
Pastor Emeritus

Linda Moser
Coordinator of Religious Education
lmoser@shswedesburg.org

FOCUS Missionaries:

Caitlyn Sechuk
csechuk@shswedesburg.org
Thomas Horlander
thorlander@shswedesburg.org

Holy Mass:

Saturday: Anticipated Mass 4:00 pm
Sunday: 8:00 am & 10:15 am
Monday through Friday at 8:00 am

Sacrament of Penance:

Sunday: 9:30 to 9:50 am
Wednesdays:
7:30 to 7:50 am & 6:30 to 7:00 pm
Saturday: 3:00 to 3:45 pm

Leo Brady
Sacristan

Valerie DiFilippo
*Parish Bookkeeper/
Cemetery Manager*
vdifilippo@shswedesburg.org

Joanne D'Alessandro
Parish Office Manager
jdalessandro@shswedesburg.org

Carl Gedeik
*Director of
Liturgical Music*

Joe & Jeff Houseal
*Directors of Parish
& Cemetery Facilities*

JANUARY 12, 2025
BAPTISM OF THE LORD

A BIG
*Thank
 you*

**December Poor Box
 Donations**

An extraordinarily generous amount of money was collected in the poor box during the month of December. Because of your goodness we were able

to send \$805.00 to the Little Sisters of the Poor who operate Holy Family Home in West Philadelphia. The Little Sisters have served the elderly poor in this Archdiocese since their arrival in 1869. For 156 years these wonderful religious Sisters have given of themselves to provide a dignified home for the elderly poor.

We are also happy to report that our donation will be doubled because of an anonymous benefactor's \$1 million dollar challenge. Any money donated to the Little Sisters will be matched by this donor to assist in the renovation and building project which has been occurring at Holy Family Home. The Lord hears the cry of the poor. Blessed be the Lord!



**LITTLE SISTERS OF THE POOR
 HOLY FAMILY HOME**

SACRED HEART PARISH
 120 JEFFERSON ST. BRIDGEPORT, PA

come let us adore him

YOUNG ADULT HOLY HOUR
 EUCHARISTIC ADORATION,
 CONFESSION, & MUSIC
 DRINKS TO FOLLOW

7pm - 8pm
 LAST WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH
 JANUARY 29 | FEBRUARY 26 | MARCH 26

CONTACT KENNEDY BUCKO W/ ANY QUESTIONS KENNEDYBUCKO@GMAIL.COM

Spaghetti Dinner
Sunday,
February 16, 2025
3:30 - 6:00 pm



Adult: \$ 12
Child: (3-9) \$7
Under 3 Free

School Hall

**Ticket sales start Jan. 18th
 after Mass & at Rectory**

**Spaghetti &
 Meatballs
 Italian Bread
 Caesar Salad
 Italian Salad
 Beverages
 Desserts
 BYOB**



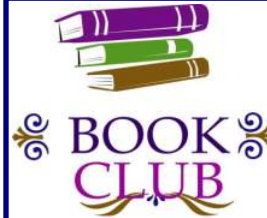
SUDDENLY SENIORS

Will meet on Thursday, January 16th at the Swedesburg Firehouse on Jefferson St. beginning at 12:00. Bring your own lunch. Water, tea & coffee will be provided. Desserts are welcomed & appreciated.

Our guest speaker will be Sr. Joan Rychalsky. She will give us the results of the Meyers Briggs test.

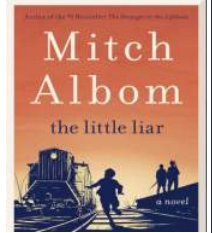
Anyone who is not yet a member of "Suddenly Seniors" please consider joining. We would love to have you join our group. Meetings are on the **THIRD THURSDAY** of each month.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!



The book for **January & February** will be The Little Liar by Mitch Albom - an unforgettable story of truth and lies set during the Holocaust. We will read 1/2 the book for the January 21st meeting and the remainder for the February 18th meeting. We will meet in the rectory meeting room at 1:30 pm.

*New members are always
welcome to join.*



Cereal Sunday Success

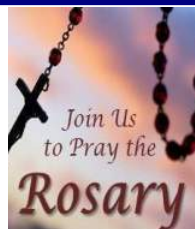
One hundred and seventy-seven (177) boxes of breakfast cereal was collected last weekend and has been donated to Martha's Choice Market which is the largest food pantry operated in Montgomery County by Catholic Charities. We thank everyone who participated in our cereal collection.



*We extend a warm welcome to
Chad Jablonski
who recently registered in our Parish!*

Monday Night Rosary will be recited in church each Monday at 7 p.m.

Pro Life Holy Hour at 12:00 noon each Wednesday in church.



All are welcome!

Holiness doesn't mean finding Jesus immediately; it means persisting in the search. Holiness does not mean moral perfection. It means quick to confess when we fall to sin and humbly accepting God's mercy and the grace to change. So keep seeking Jesus no matter how messy life gets!

DINNER THEATER BUS TRIP LANCASTER

WHEN: Tuesday, April 15, 2025

WHERE: Dutch Apple Dinner Theater

SHOW: **Fiddler on the Roof**

COST: \$119.41 Per Person
(due upon making reservation)

TIME: **Departs 9:30 AM Sacred Heart Church parking lot promptly**
Returns 4 PM (buffet lunch 11:30, show 1PM)

Checks payable to: Sacred Heart Church

Any questions, contact June at 610-247-4398



MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, January 11

4:00pm Anthony Moffa

Requested by Moffa & Opielski Families

Sunday, January 12

8:00am Judith Dexter

Requested by The Sulpizio Family

10:15am Anne Rodgers

Requested by Anne Marie Rodman & Family

Monday, January 13

8:00am Haesook Choi

Requested by Vincent & Christine Benedict

Tuesday, January 14

8:00am Roseann Sulock

Requested by Kelly, Briella & Harper Lilick

Wednesday, January 15

8:00am Philomena Kurcik

Requested by Her Family

Thursday, January 16

8:00am Dolores Washburn

Requested by Tom & Mary Ellen Kester

Friday, January 17

8:00am Nicholas J. Bereda

Requested by Lou Puco

Saturday, January 18

NB: No 8:00am Mass on Saturdays

4:00pm Louis Stalker

Anniversary Remembrance

Requested by The Bores & Stalker Families

Sunday, January 19

8:00am Susan Leonard

Requested by Pat Murphy

10:15am Steve Barainyak

Requested by His Family



Let Us Serve The Lord With Gladness!

The following Ministers are scheduled for our Parish Masses.

Saturday evening, January 18:

4:00pm

Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion:

Larry Kilian

Lector: Walt Fromm, Jr.

Sunday morning, January 19:

8:00am

Lector: Rich McVoy

10:15am

Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion:

Andy Moletzsky

Lector: Caitlyn Sechuk



Weekly Report

December 28 - 29, 2024

\$6,687.00

January 4 - 5, 2025

\$10,087.00

Thank you for your support of Our Parish!



Archdiocese

of

Philadelphia

**Archbishop Pérez's
Pastoral Letter**

Archbishop Pérez published a Pastoral Letter on Sunday, January 5th. This letter outlines his hopes for the Church of Philadelphia over the coming years. He is asking for your help in being a part of the process. The first thing to do is to visit: <https://trustandhope.org> by clicking the link or using the QR code below; watching the video; and then reading the Archbishop's letter to us. After that, please also sign up for one of the Archdiocesan Consultation Sessions and learn even more. We will also have local information sessions here at Sacred Heart Parish and we will share those dates as soon as we schedule them.



ETERNAL REST,
GRANT UNTO THEM O LORD!

*In your kindness,
please pray for the happy repose of the soul of*

Helen A. Bednar

*Who was called from this life on
December 27, 2024*

*"May Her soul and all the souls of the
faithful departed Rest in peace."*



In Loving Memory

*We are grateful for donations
received in Memory of*

George F. Mardi, Sr.

*On behalf of:
Helen Trecroce*



In Loving Memory

*We are grateful for donations
received in Memory of*

Andrew Andreyko, Sr.

*On behalf of:
Lorraine Keszczyk & Family
Barbara Roskos*



RETROUVAILLE: REDISCOVER THE LOVE IN YOUR MARRIAGE Tens of thousands of couples have healed their marriages through Retrouvaille (pronounced Retro-vy). If you know anyone who could benefit from this program, please pass this on. Couples learn to build communication skills and to increase intimacy. It provides help for marriage problems, difficulties or crises. The next program will be held February 14 - 16, 2025 at the Family Life Center in Malvern, PA. For more information, or to register visit www.HelpOurMarriage.org or call 215-766-3944 or 800-470-2230. All inquiries are strictly confidential.



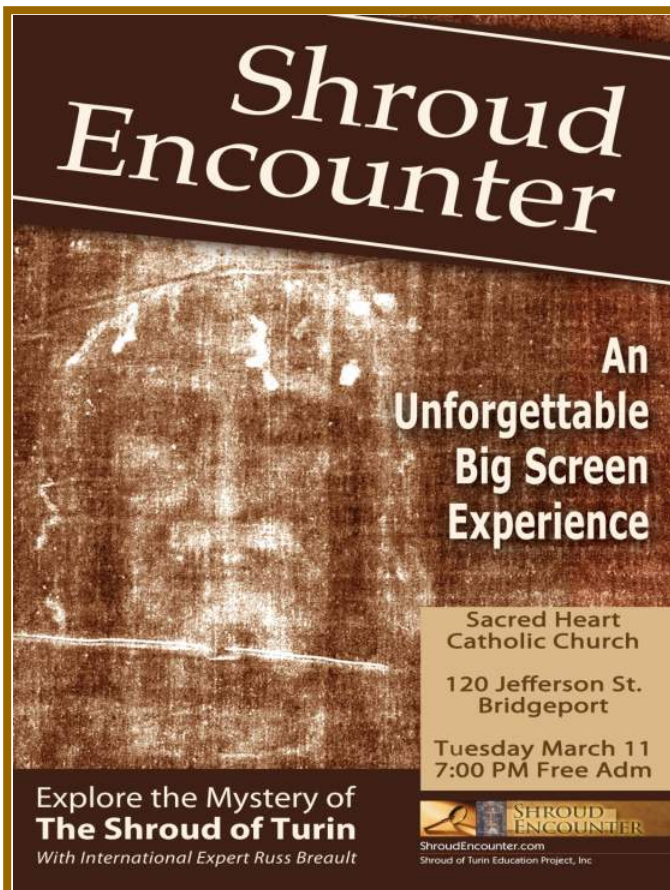
***Please Pray For All Who Protect Our
Country, especially...***

John F. K. Benedict (Major, USAF ANG), son of Christine & Vince Benedict; **Anthony C. Brandt** (CW3 Warrant Officer, U.S. Army Reserves), son of Eileen Brandt; **Zachary T. Brandt** (Sergeant U.S. Army), grandson of Eileen Brandt; **Matthew J. Capaldo** (Commander, U.S. Navy) son of John & Connie Capaldo; **Michael DeStefano, Jr.** (Sergeant U.S. Army) grandson of Jack & Sue DeStefano; **Michael Gutkowski** (Lieutenant Commander, U.S. Navy), grandson of Pat Gutkowski; **Samuel Hoey** (LCpl, U.S.M.C), grandson of Leona Cottone; **Noel Irizarry** (Specialist, U.S. Army), son of Patricia Epright; **Shane Jones** (Sergeant U.S. Marines), grandson of Fran Toth; **Matthew McNulty** (Chief Warrant Officer 4 U.S.M.C.), son of Irene McNulty; **Rick McVoy** (Lieutenant Commander, U.S. Navy) son of Rich McVoy; **Greg Philips** (Lieutenant Commander, U.S. Navy); **Jessica Prostack** (CW2 Warrant Officer, U.S. Army), daughter of Richard Prostack; **Jeffrey Seamans** (Captain, U.S. Army), son-in-law of Dolores Burton; **Stephanie Zugay** (National Guard), granddaughter of Greg & Grace Zugay.



Piper Kaplan
Michael J. Estock
Francis Rodenbaugh III
Karen Braithwaite
Carol Katkowski
Chester Kowalski
Elaine Fertal
Barbara Pruskowski
George Minnis
Al Cowling
Mary (Puzio) Stephenson
Mary Boyle
Fran Toth
Joan Birely
Martha Smoczylo
Kelly Benedict
Patricia Gaffney
Angela Desmond
Fred Zugay
Mike Piskai
Eileen Brandt

Denise Kavanagh
Tom Kavanagh
Michael Martin
Ronald Halas
Marge Leszczynski
Dolores Burton
Fran & Rob Worrall
Marion Raup
Joseph Saboe
Irene Elliott
Stanley Leszczynski
Ayden Boone
Butch Rodenbaugh
Nicholas Janicki
Michael Myers
Melissa (Myers) Sillah
George Estock
Barbara A. Burkert
John Smoczylo
Laurie Ronan



The highly acclaimed **SHROUD ENCOUNTER** will be coming to Sacred Heart Catholic Church, located at 120 Jefferson St. in Bridgeport, PA on Tuesday March 11 at 7:00 PM. Admission is free.

The presentation is a fast-moving, big-screen experience using over 200 images. The program is a production of the Shroud of Turin Education Project, Inc. and will be presented by international expert and author, Russ Breault.

Mr. Breault has been featured in several national documentaries seen on *CBS*, *History Channel*, *EWTN* and *Discovery*. He has been interviewed for *Good Morning America* and *ABC World News Tonight* and was a consultant for *CNN's Finding Jesus* series. He has presented at numerous colleges and universities including Duke, West Point, Johns Hopkins, Penn State and many others. See www.ShroudEncounter.com for more info.

The Shroud of Turin is the most analyzed artifact in the world yet remains a mystery. The 14-foot-long linen cloth that has been in Turin, Italy for over 400 years and bears the faint front and back

image of a 5'10" bearded, crucified man with apparent wounds and bloodstains that match the crucifixion account as recorded in the bible. Millions of people over the centuries have believed it be the actual burial shroud of Jesus.

A team of 33 scientists in 1981 concluded it was not the work of an artist. They found no visible trace of paint, pigment, dye or other artistic substances on the cloth. The blood is type AB with human male DNA as determined in 1995. Skeptics have mounted numerous attempts to show how a medieval artist could have produced the image, but all have been inadequate to fully explain how it was formed.

The Shroud was largely dismissed in 1988 when three carbon dating labs indicated a medieval origin. However chemical research published in a peer reviewed scientific journal in 2005 showed that the single sample cut from the outside corner edge may not have been part of the original Shroud material. In violation of the sampling protocol, only one sample was used for dating and was cut from the most handled area of the cloth, an area that should have been avoided. The sample may have been part of a section that was repaired sometime during the Middle Ages. Many scientists now believe the carbon dating result is inconclusive.

Adding more doubt to the carbon dating tests, as published in 2022 by scientists with Italy's Institute of Crystallography. Using a new technique called Wide Angle X-ray Scattering which measures the amount of natural aging in linen, they determined the amount of aging seen in fibers from the Shroud are compatible with a first century linen.

The mystery continues. National Geographic called it "One of the most perplexing enigmas of modern times." **SHROUD ENCOUNTER** will cover all aspects of history, science, art and theories of how the image may have been formed.

A free will offering will be accepted to help defray the cost.

BAPTISM OF THE LORD

JANUARY 12, 2025

Reflection by Rev. Leonard N. Peterson

Whether it's the well-known writer coming to town for a book signing, or the celebrity songstress arriving at the local arena, expectation fuels anticipation, and ticket sales reach a new high. It's just a natural happening. A bit of excitement that cuts through the ordinary day to day rhythm of our lives.

But when some other event occurs, for example the funeral of a loved one, the interruption of the usual pattern triggers deep thoughts within us, whether we choose to go there or not. Then we're not as taken up by celebrity or fame. We want solid answers to serious questions. Fulfillment over fantasy.

With the coming of Christ into our world some 2,000 plus years ago, we got the best answers possible to our most serious questions. Of course, we need His very help, with trusting faith, to realize that.

To begin with, God surprised us all by coming to us in a human nature like ours in so many ways but one: it was linked mysteriously by a divine nature. Who is Jesus is easier to answer than what is He because of this dual nature in one Person.

This well-known event of His baptism at the storied Jordan river presents a problem and raises questions. If one of the purposes of Baptism is to remove original sin, what is the Son of God Himself letting His cousin John the Baptist pour the water over Him? Where is the authenticity here? There are several answers.

First is Our Lord's intent to demonstrate His humility and become an example for us. Secondly, the baptism became a way for God to confirm that Jesus was His Son. Thirdly, the baptism enabled Jesus to join our humanity by sharing in our baptism. Finally, it was the way Jesus chose to inaugurate His mission among us as the obedient Son of God. We are quite conscious of the meaning of "inauguration" this month in the political life of our country. We could say, respectfully, that as Christmas was Christ's birth and arrival, so His baptism marked His first day at work.

Several years ago, one of our astronauts who walked on the moon was asked "What were you thinking about as you stood on the moon and looked back at the earth?" The astronaut replied, "I remembered how the spacecraft was built by the lowest bidder."

We as Christians can rejoice that the work of salvation did not go to "the lowest bidder," but was performed by an infinite God. Every expectation will be met. There will never be a deficiency in His work. Alleluia!

God love you and give you His peace.



Keith J. Murphy
Supervisor
Funeral Director



Serving the community since 1941
Bernard S. Gutkowski
Funeral Home
305 Jefferson Street • Swedesburg, PA 19405
610-275-6385
www.gutkowskiFuneralhome.com

Bernard S. Gutkowski
Funeral Director

Bernard S. Gutkowski, Sr.
1915-1966

Founders
Pauline H. Gutkowski
1911-2007

Walter Gutkowski
1941-2012

Family Owned and
Operated Since 1987

FREE INSPECTION
Licensed & Insured



RIGHTWAY
WATERPROOFING CO.

BASEMENT WATERPROOFING
MOLD REMEDIATION
FOUNDATION REPAIR

215-427-1727

www.RightwayWaterproofing.com



Serving Breakfast All Day!
Open 7 Days
Dine in - Take Out
26 W. 4th St., Bridgeport, PA 19405
610-489-4640
4thstreetcafebridgeport.com



CAMPBELL ROCCO LAW LLC
2701 Renaissance Blvd., 4th Floor, King of Prussia, PA 19406

Edmund J. Campbell, Jr.

P: (610) 992-5885
ecampbell@campbellroccolaw.com
www.CampbellRoccoLaw.com

DEMETRIS
Uptown Market

Celebrating 85 Years of Business
Open 7 Days a Week
2 W. 4th St., Bridgeport, PA
610-275-3780

Gregory W. Philips
Attorney at Law

ZONING • FAMILY LAW
WILLS & ESTATES
PERSONAL INJURY
"I MAKE HOUSE CALLS"
610-323-1400

THE BURGESS WEDDINGS
at Jeffersonville BANQUETS
SHOWERS
CELEBRATION OF LIFE LUNCHEONS
BAR & RESTAURANT
OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK
2400 W. Main St. Jeffersonville, PA 19403

ANNE M. FACCHIANO PACE, DMD



Fellow: Academy of
General Dentistry
1639 Pine St.
Norristown
610-275-3990

Diocese Member
Family & Cosmetic Dentistry
Personal & Relaxing
Implant Crowns • Soft Tissue Laser
Clear Aligner Therapy for Straight Teeth

We are Catholic men (sons, fathers, husbands, and grandfathers) living by principles inspired by faith, each on life's greatest adventure to discover the man God calls us to be. Will you join us?



HOLY FAMILY COUNCIL #3327
www.kofc3327.org



Team Fabiani 610-337-3330



FUNERAL HOME & CREMATORY, INC.

300 Fayette Street
Conshohocken, PA 19428
610-828-0330
www.msrfh.com

Donald E. Moore - Supervisor

Join Us...for our Pre-Planning Seminars

Get your ducks in a row.

We'll guide you through the steps of preparing your final wishes, options for placement of your remains, funeral personalization, and addressing the financial options of final expenses.



Call Us For More Info About Upcoming Dates & Locations!
844-451-9614
www.PhiladelphiaCatholicCemeteries.com



PHILADELPHIA • BUCKS • MONTCO • DELAWARE • CHESTER



Have you found
FABER?

FREE
DOWNLOAD!



**American
Red Cross**

VOLUNTEER

with the American Red Cross

Join today at redcross.org/Volunteer



www.grwplumbingheatingllc.com

IN REMEMBRANCE OF
SAMANTHA JOSEPHSON
S A M I
STOP ASK MATCH INFORM
Ask #WHATMYNAME
BEFORE YOU GET IN A RIDE SHARE



Salvatore F. Bello, Jr.* | Robert J. Reilly, Jr.*
Daniel T. McGorry* | Gregory P. DiPippo* | Salvatore F. Bello, III
*Also Admitted in NJ

Personal Injury • Real Estate • Bankruptcy • Criminal Law • Domestic Law/Divorce
Estate Planning • Taxation • Workers Compensation • License Suspension/DUI
Corporate Law • Administrative & Municipal Law

144 East DeKalb Pike, Suite 300 King of Prussia, PA 19406 | (610) 992-1300 | Fax: (610) 992-1505 | www.prblmlaw.com

**Bacchi Funeral Home
& Crematory, Ltd.**

805 DeKalb Street Bridgeport, PA 19405
Phone: 610-272-1941 Fax: 610-278-6683

www.bacchifh.com

Heather M. Hughes, Supervisor
Darryl R. Bacchi

Julia K. Meyers
Francis X. Givnish



**Szpindor-Meyers
Funeral Home, P.C.**

101 North Park Avenue Trooper, PA 19403
Phone: 610-539-8010 Fax: 610-635-0284

www.meyersfh.com

James T. Meyers
Supervisor

Timothy J. Meyers
Licensed in PA and DE



In Our 4th Decade of Quality Service

French Drains • Foundation Repair • Mold Remediation

All Work Guaranteed

610-696-0100

www.morganbasementwaterproofing.com



JOHN PATRICK
publishing company, inc.
For Advertising
Information Contact
WYATT GROVE
Cell: 610-212-9298
wegrove@jppc.net