

Sacred Heart Parish

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



all things are
possible for God

MARK 10:27

© JPPC

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*

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2024
TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



About the Forty Hours

The 40 Hours Devotion is 40 hours of prayer before the exposed Blessed Sacrament, where we come face-to-face with Our Lord. This devotion is also widely known as Forty Hours Prayer and Forty Hours Adoration.

The selection of 40 as the number of hours the faithful pray and the Blessed Sacrament is exposed outside the tabernacle is likely because that was the number of hours Our Lord spent in the tomb between His death and resurrection. The number 40 is found repeatedly throughout the Old and New Testaments, including: the number of days Our Lord fasted and was tempted in the wilderness, the days of rain causing the great flood during Noah's time, and the years of journey the Israelites wandered in the desert. For over 500 years one of the most beautiful of all Catholic devotions has been the one known as Forty Hours. The Blessed Sacrament is solemnly exposed for 40 hours outside the tabernacle and continuously adored by the faithful.

Our 40 Hours celebration will begin next Sunday. Father Frank Guiffre and the 7 spirituality year seminarians who live at the former St. Matthew Convent in Conshohocken will join us for the 10:15 Mass.

As we have done for the last few years, we will have nocturnal adoration. The Church will be open all through the night for prayer. The Knights of Columbus will assist us with covering these hours but all "night owls" are especially encouraged to sign up for the late hours to assure that the Blessed Sacrament is not left unattended.



Welcome Fr. Pachomius, OP!

We are happy to announce that our 40 Hours preacher this year will be Fr. Pachomius Walker, OP. Father Pachomius will preach at all the Masses next weekend to share the joy of the Eucharistic Savior with us.

Fr. Pachomius Walker, O.P., originally a Tennessee native, attended Vanderbilt University during which time he was received into full communion with the Catholic Church and confirmed through the campus ministry in 2010. He joined the Order of Preachers in 2016. After ordination in 2022, he was assigned to St. Patrick Parish in Center City, Philadelphia for two years as the Parochial Vicar. He began doctoral studies in moral theology at the Catholic University of America in the Fall of 2024.

We are pleased to welcome Fr. Pachomius to our parish!

Why World Mission Sunday Matters

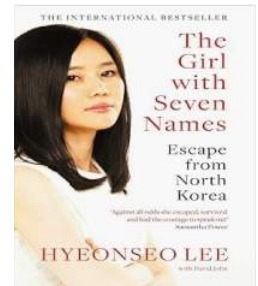
World Mission Sunday, observed on October 20th this year, is not just another Sunday; it is a powerful reminder of our call to be missionaries. The collection taken up on this day is unique as it is mandated by the Code of Canon Law and is essential for the survival and growth of the Church in mission territories.

These funds support the pastoral and evangelizing work of the Church, including building churches, providing healthcare and education, and training future priests and religious. In places where resources are scarce, your generosity makes a profound difference. As we reflect on the theme "Go and invite everyone to the banquet," let us remember that our participation and support help invite countless souls to the feast of God's love.

You are cordially invited to join the "Book Club". Our next meeting will be Tuesday, October 15th and will be held in the Rectory Meeting Room beginning at 1:30pm.

The book for October is The Girl with Seven Names by Hyeonseo Lee. It is the true story of a girl, who at age 17, decided to escape North Korea.

Please consider joining us for a great discussion.



Come out to our PREP All Saints Trunk or Treat

ALL SAINTS AND ALL TREATS

When: Sunday, October 27, 2024

Time: following the 10:15 am Mass

Where: lower Church parking lot

Who: All families are welcome!

Make your "Traveling Saint" at home or we will have a table for you to make and color your saint before you treat. Then you will take your "Traveling Saint" on an adventure to meet some other great saints and grab some treats along the way!



We welcome you to come dressed as your favorite saint!



"Suddenly Seniors"

will meet on Thursday, October 17th at the Swedesburg Fire House on Jefferson St. beginning at 12:00. Bring your own lunch. Water, tea, coffee will be provided. Anyone able to bring a dessert, this will be greatly appreciated. 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.



September Poor Box Collection

We collected \$441.00 in the poor box during the month of September. This offering was given to

A Baby's Breath. Thank you very much for your generosity!

Cereal Sunday Success!

During October's "Cereal Sunday" we collected 188 boxes of breakfast cereal. The donations were given to Martha's Choice Market, a food pantry operated by Catholic Charities. Thanks for your generous response.



MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, October 12

4:00pm Barbara Bores

Requested by The Peluso Family

Sunday, October 13

8:00am For the People of Our Parish

10:15am Phillip J. Giovinco, Sr. &

Phillip J. Giovinco, Jr.

Birthday Remembrances

Requested by Rosemary Giovinco & Family

Monday, October 14

8:00am Salvatore & Concetta DiGenova

Requested by Daughter-in-law, Placida

Tuesday, October 15

8:00am Anna Mae Daloisio

Requested by Karen Hinchey

Wednesday, October 16

8:00am Dot & Nicholas Puco

Requested by Lou Puco

Thursday, October 17

8:00am For the Intentions of Rachel Kalivas

Requested by Mom & Pop

Friday, October 18

8:00am Mario DiNenna

Birthday Remembrance

Requested by Family

Saturday, October 19

NB: No 8:00am Mass on Saturdays

4:00pm Jack & Jean Guziewicz

Requested by Children & Grandchildren

Sunday, October 20

8:00am For the People of Our Parish

10:15am John Mateja

Requested by Kevin & Mary Ann Maher



Let Us Serve The Lord With Gladness!

The following Ministers are scheduled for our Parish Masses.

Saturday evening, October 19:

4:00pm

Lector: Connie Capaldo

Sunday morning, October 20:

8:00am

Lector: Eileen Bralski

10:15am

Lector: Daniel Fahy, Jr.



Weekly Report

October 5 - 6, 2024

\$8,452.00

Thank you for your support of Our Parish!



***Upcoming Monthly
Special Collection***

In your generosity, please
remember

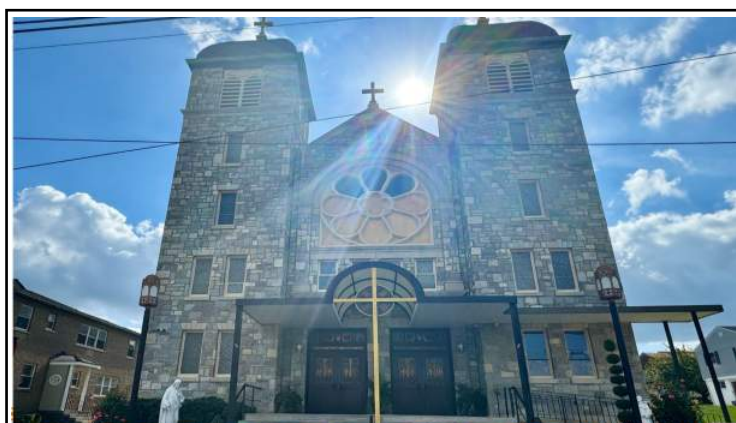
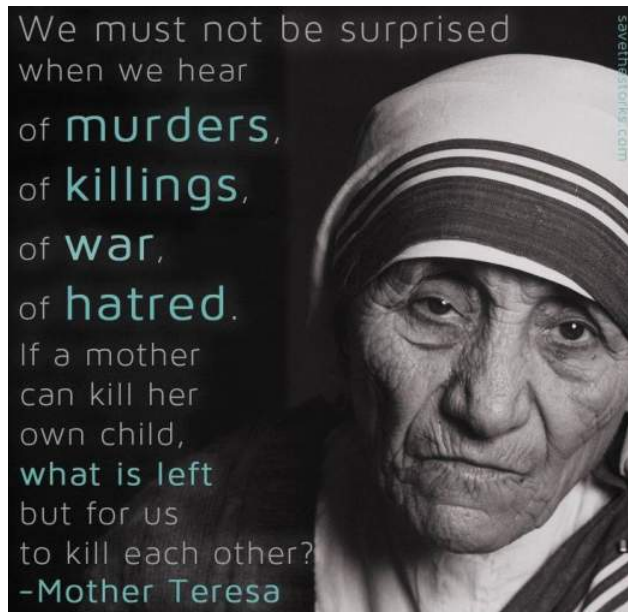
**The Weekend of
October 19 - 20, 2024**

World Mission Sunday

Thank you for your generosity!



We extend a warm welcome to
Katherine Burns
Alejandro Espinosa Plata
Maria Mummert
Meghan Wickersham
who recently registered in our Parish!



SACRED HEART MISSION

ECYD & MISSION YOUTH

JOIN US IN EVANGELIZING
OUR NEIGHBORS

9 Nov, 2024 Sacred Heart
Parish

SCHEDULE
 11:30AM-ARRIVAL AT SACRED HEART
 11:30-12:30PM-TRAINING
 12:30-2:00PM CROSSWALKS
 2:00-3:30PM-PIZZA AND HIGHS & LOWS
 4:00PM- MASS

120 JEFFERSON ST BRIDGEPORT, PA 19405



"Join us for a transformative experience at the Sacred Heart Parish Mission! This engaging event will feature crosswalks, where participants will split into groups to reach out to our community, sharing the love of Christ. We'll go door to door, asking for prayer intentions and inviting neighbors to join us in faith. Attendees will have the opportunity to nail their prayer intentions to our 8-foot wooden crosses, symbolizing our commitment to spreading the love of Jesus to our backyard. This mission is a wonderful way to connect, serve, and evangelize in our local community. **ALL AGE GROUPS ARE WELCOME.** Registration can be found on the flyer or in the back after mass. **Join Us in Evangelizing Our Neighbors!**"

*This week the Sanctuary
Lamp in the Church burns in
loving memory of*

Stella Wlazelek

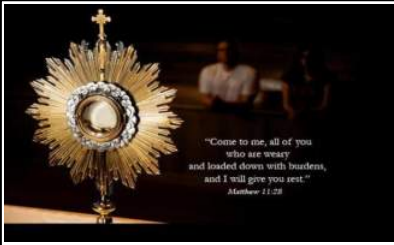
Anniversary Remembrance

*at the Request of Her Daughter,
Wanda Opielski & Family*



Barbara Fromm
 Michael J. Estock
 Ron Dalasio
 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

Andrew Andreyko
 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
 Helen Bednar
 Barbara A. Burkert
 John Smoczylo
 Laurie Ronan



The Story of 40 Hours by Fr. Puelo

The late Fr. Gus Puleo published the following essay on 40 Hours devotion last November. Because he was well known in our community, we would like to share his thoughts with you.

This past week we celebrated 40 hours at St. Charles Borromeo Seminary. This is a wonderful time of the year for prayer and spiritual readings. This special devotion is a special forty-hour period of continuous prayer made before the Blessed Sacrament in solemn exposition.

The focus of this devotion is on the Holy Eucharist. As Catholics we firmly believe the words of Jesus Christ, "I myself am the living bread come down from Heaven. If anyone eats this bread, he shall live forever; the bread I will give is my flesh for the life of the world" (John 6:51). Emphasizing the real presence of the Lord in the Blessed Sacrament, the Vatican Council II defined how the Holy Eucharist is "the source and summit of the Catholic life" (Lumen Gentium, #11).

Of course, the Mass is the central act of worship for Catholics, an act which participates in the eternal reality of our Lord's passion, death and resurrection. However, Vatican II encouraged the adoration of the Blessed Sacrament outside of Mass. This devotion derives from the holy sacrifice of the Mass and moves one to both sacramental and spiritual communion with Jesus (Eucharisticum Mysterium, #50). Saint John Paul II had repeatedly recommended public and private devotion of the Blessed Sacrament, especially during processions on the Feast of Corpus Christi and the 40 Hours Devotion.

The number "forty" has always signified an important and sacred period of time in the Bible: the rains during the time of Noah lasted 40 days and nights; the Jews wandered through the desert for 40 years, Jesus fasted and prayed for 40 days before beginning His public ministry. The 40 Hours Devotion always remembers the traditional forty-hour period from our Lord's burial until his resurrection. Actually, in the Middle Ages, the Blessed Sacrament was transferred to the repository, "the Easter Sepulcher," for this period of time to show our Lord's time in the tomb.

The Forty Hours Devotion begins with a Solemn Mass of Exposition, which concludes with the exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and a procession. The Blessed Sacrament is placed on the altar in a monstrance. During the next 40 hours, the faithful gather for personal or public prayer in adoring Jesus Christ. At the end of devotions, the Mass of Reposition is celebrated again concluding with a procession, benediction and final reposition of the Blessed Sacrament. There are three special dimensions about this devotion: the protection from evil and temptation, reparation for our sin and the souls in Purgatory, and deliverance from political, and spiritual calamities.

The practice of Forty Hours originated in Milan about 1530 by Saint Anthony Mary Zaccaria and Vicenza. In 1539 Pope Paul III responded to a call from the Archdiocese of Milan asking for them to permit this practice:

“Since our beloved son the Vicar General of the Archbishop of Milan, at the prayer of the inhabitants of the city in order to appease the anger of God provoked by the offenses of Christians and in order to stop the Turks who were pressing forward to the destruction of Christendom has established prayers to be offered day and night by the faithful before the Sacred Body of Jesus Christ. These prayers should be prayed for forty hours continuously in each church according to the order determined by the Vicar.” From this order this devotion of Forty Hours spread rapidly.

In 1550 St. Philip Neri and St. Ignatius Loyola also instituted and help spread this practice, especially for the forgiveness of sins. Recognizing the tremendous graces offered by this devotion Pope Clement VIII in his letter *Graves et diuturnae* in 1592 proclaimed, “We have established publicly in this Mother City of Rome an uninterrupted course of prayer in different churches, that is Forty Hours Devotion.” Pope Clement XI established regulations for the devotions that we know as *Instructio Clementina* in 1705.

In the United States, St. John Neumann, the fourth bishop of Philadelphia, promoted the Forty Hours Devotion. St. John had a great devotion to our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament, and desired to foster such a spiritual life in his people.

At that time a strong anti-Catholic sentiment was found in Philadelphia. During the Know Nothing Riots of 1844, two churches were burned and another was saved by the threat of gunfire. Some priests advised St. John that the introduction of the 40 Hours Devotion would only cause more hatred against Catholics and expose the Blessed Sacrament to desecration. The saint was confused.

However, one night while working very late at his desk, he fell asleep. The candle on the desk burnt down and charred papers, but they were still readable. He awoke surprised and thankful that a fire had not ignited. He fell to his knees and gave thanks to God and heard His voice saying, “As the flames are burning here without consuming or injuring the writing, so shall I pour out my grace in the Blessed Sacrament without prejudice to My honor. Fear no profanation, therefore; hesitate no longer to carry out your design for my glory.”

Then, the Bishop introduced the practice of 40 Hours Devotion in 1853 at St. Philip Neri Parish in South Philadelphia, an appropriate place since that saint had started the devotion in the city of Rome. Then, St. John introduced the program for the entire diocese, so that each parish would have Forty Hours Devotion. This was so successful that the Forty Hours Devotion spread to other dioceses.

The Forty Hours Devotion is a great opportunity for the spiritual growth of each person and the parish as a whole. The seminarians pray for all of you in the Diocese of Philadelphia, for each other in their vocation to the priesthood, and for their professors who teach them. In a world where there are great temptations and evil, where devotion to Mass and the Eucharist have declined, where the practice of penance has been forgotten, we need the Forty Hours Devotion more than ever.

Keith J. Murphy
Supervisor
Funeral Director



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