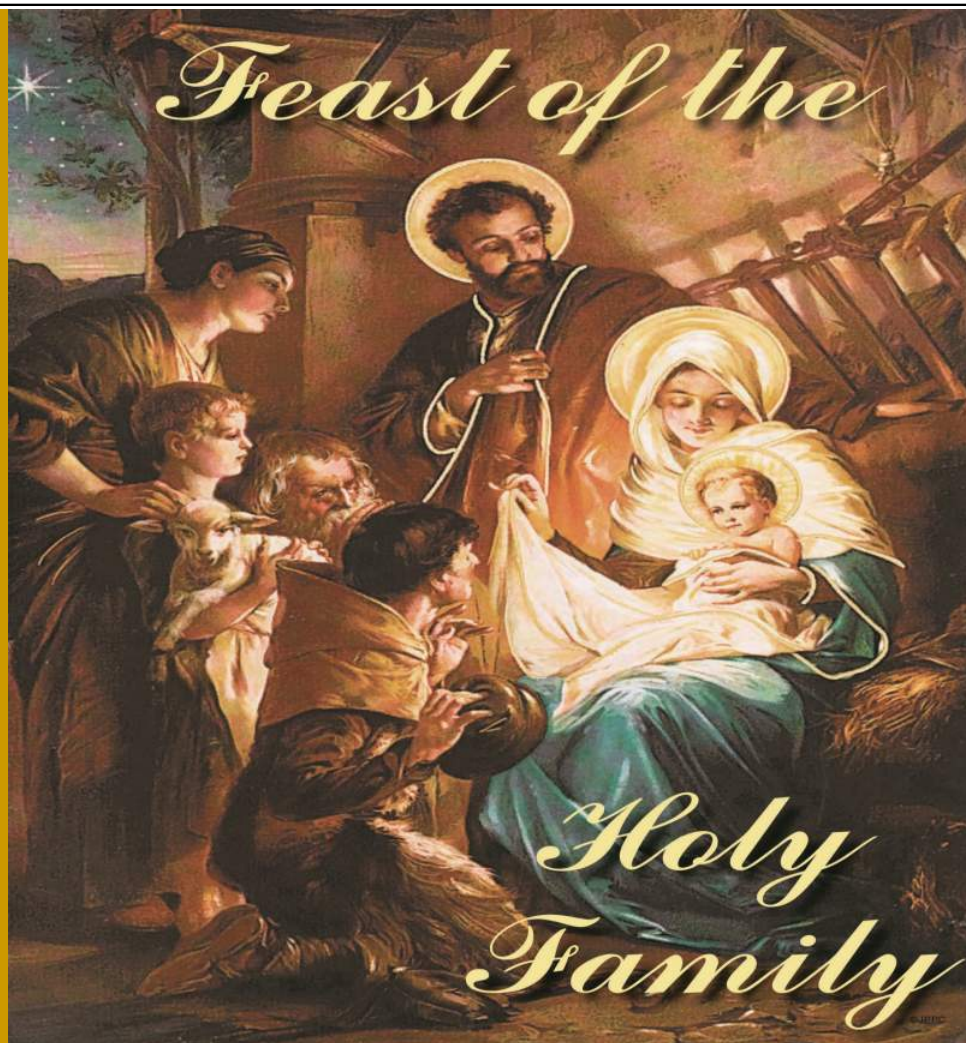


Sacred Heart Parish

120 Jefferson Street ~ Swedesburg, Pennsylvania, 19405

(610) 275-1750



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

DECEMBER 29, 2024
THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH

The Solemnity of Mary
 January 1st



The Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God:
(New Year's), December 31st

4:00pm

New Year's Day, January 1, 2025

10:15am

May Almighty God bless you with happiness, health, success, and prosperity in the New Year. May He send his blessing upon you in 2025. I wish all of you a very happy and blessed New Year.

Father DiMaria



Companions in Prayer and Ministry will meet on Sunday, January 5th after the 10:15 Mass in the Rectory Meeting Room.

Please consider joining our Companions Group on the first Sunday of the month after the 10:15 Mass. All are welcome!

Sister Francis Helen

There are two ways of waking up in the morning. One is to say, "Good morning God" and the other is to say, "Good God, morning!"

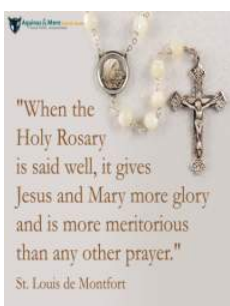
~Bishop Fulton J. Sheen

Thank You for Your Gifts



Thanks to the generosity of our parishioners the Christmas celebrations of many people in need were made a bit brighter. We collected 206 gift cards totaling \$5,150.00 in funds distributed through the Missionaries of Charity and the Martha's Choice Market.

We are especially grateful to Joyce Cantando for coordinating this event. May God bless all who hear the cry of the poor!



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!



The Parish Office will be closed Tuesday, December 31 & Wednesday, January 1.



*We extend a warm welcome to
Dalton & Elizabeth Sala
who recently registered in our Parish!*



Friday, January 10th

Doors open 6:00 PM

Games at 7:00 PM

Parish Hall

**Sponsored by The Knights
of Columbus**



THE LORD'S REAL PRESENCE

We are fortunate enough to worship in a Church in which the **Body of Christ** is reserved. It is right to acknowledge the **Lord's**

Real Presence with a brief act of worship on entering or leaving the Church and every time passing by the Sanctuary.

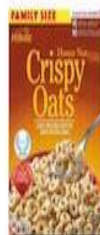
Normally, a **genuflection** in the direction of the place of Reservation is enough. One who is physically unable to genuflect may substitute a **profound bow** at the waist.

CEREAL SUNDAY

DONATIONS FOR
MARTHA'S CHOICE MARKETPLACE



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If You Cannot Be On
Time,
Then Be **EARLY**.
Making Time For Prayer
Strengthens Our
Connection With God!

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, December 28

4:00pm Adele & Ronald DelMauro

Requested by Margaret & Ronald Halas

Sunday, December 29

8:00am For the People of Our Parish

10:15am John & Eleanor Toth

Requested by Lee Ann, Shelly & Their Families

Monday, December 30

8:00am David Boyd

Requested by Vincent & Christine Benedict

Tuesday, December 31

4:00pm Ronald R. Greco

Wedding Anniversary Remembrance

Requested by Wife, Beverly

Wednesday, January 1

10:15am Patricia Debro

Requested by Lou Puco



Thursday, January 2

8:00am Antoinette Hildebrand

10th Anniversary Remembrance

Requested by Anthony & Phyllis Tarantino & Friend, John

Friday, January 3

8:00am Frank Bazela

Requested by Stan & Marge Leszczynski

Saturday, January 4

NB: No 8:00am Mass on Saturdays

4:00pm Daniel Paciello

Requested by Sally Haines

Sunday, January 5

8:00am Kathy Moffa & Anthony Moffa

Requested by Wanda Opielski & Family

10:15am Thomas Putz

Requested by Mike & Nicole Vern



Let Us Serve The Lord With Gladness!

The following Ministers are scheduled for our Parish Masses.

New Year's Eve Mass, December 31:

4:00pm

Lector: Elisa Pagnotti

New Year's Day Mass, January 1:

10:15am

Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion:

Valencia Zaremba

Lector: Helen Keller Surman

Saturday evening, January 4:

4:00pm

Lector: Walt Fromm, Jr.

Sunday morning, January 5:

8:00am

Lector: Rich McVoy

10:15am

Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion:

Pat Moletzsky

Lector: Chris Kilian



December 14 - 15, 2024

\$7,428.00

Thank you for your support of Our Parish!





O Holy Night, The King is Born: What Christmas Is About

Celebrate the wonder and joy of Christmas with Brother Francis in this heartwarming presentation of the birth of God's Son! Witness the moving submission of Mary, Joseph, and others as they make way for our Savior.

Our parish has a FORMED subscription.
Visit formed.org/signup and select our parish.
Scan the QR code to download the FORMED app to your phone.



An offering from the AUGUSTINE INSTITUTE and gracies press



New Year's Resolutions | The Augustine Institute Show

What's your resolution this year? Dr. Tim Gray welcomes Dr. Scott Hefelfinger, Assistant Professor of Theology in the Augustine Institute Graduate School of Theology, to celebrate one year of the Augustine Institute Show!

Our parish has a FORMED subscription.
Visit formed.org/signup and select our parish.
Scan the QR code to download the FORMED app to your phone.



An offering from the AUGUSTINE INSTITUTE and gracies press



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
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



Catholic School Scholarship Opportunity Grades 1 through College/University

Holy Family Council #3327 the Knights of Columbus, is offering scholarships valued up to \$3,000 each, for the 2025/2026 academic year to worthy students/families in need of financial assistance. These students must be members of the Bridgeport area Catholic parishes and plan to attend or re-enroll in Catholic Schools (grades 1-12) or to a Catholic college/university. Please visit the parish office during business hours to get an application package. Completed applications must be dropped off at your parish rectory by Wednesday, January 8, 2025.

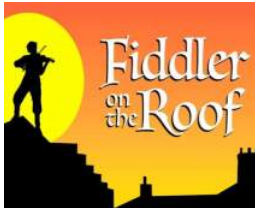
SAVE THE DATE

JANUARY 8

CARING FOR FRIENDS

6:00 PM

PARISH HALL



DINNER THEATER BUS TRIP LANCASTER

**WHEN: Tuesday,
April 15, 2025**

WHERE: Dutch Apple Dinner Theater

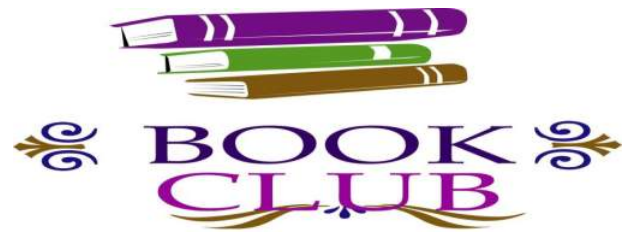
SHOW: Fiddler on the Roof

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)**

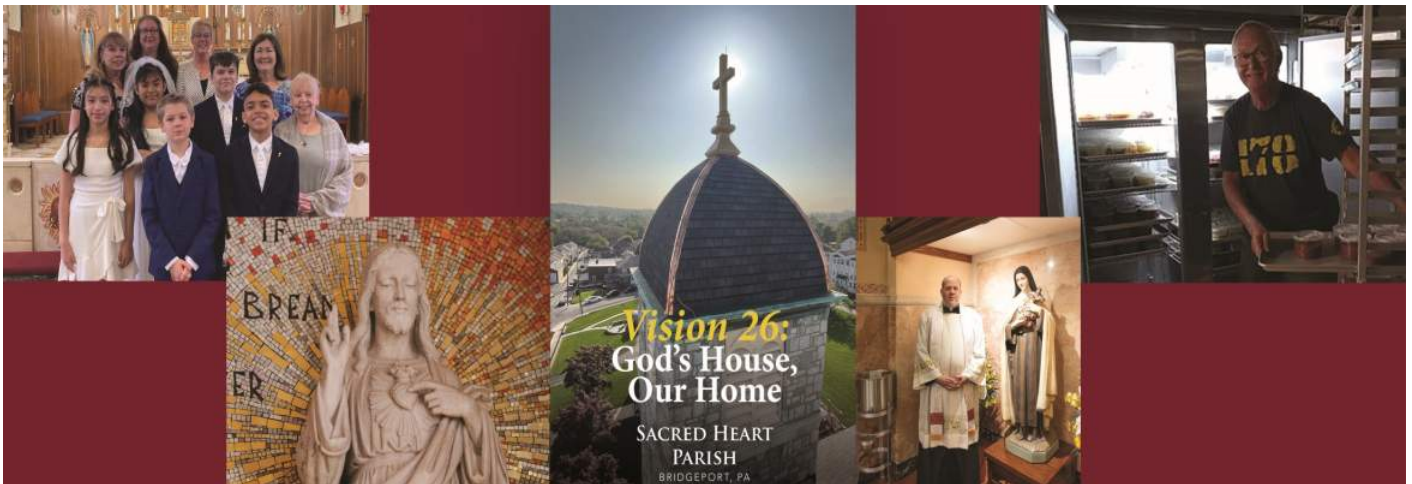
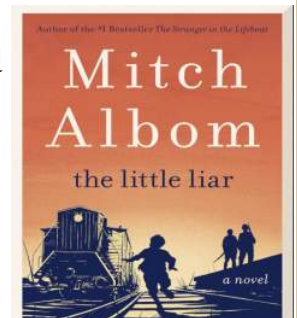
Checks payable to: Sacred Heart Church

Any questions, contact June at 610-247-4398



The next book club meeting will be on
The book for **January & February** will be
The Little Liar by Mitch Albom - an unfor-
gettable 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.

*New members are always
welcome to join.*



THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH DECEMBER 29, 2024



Reflection by Rev. Leonard N. Peterson

My calling precludes me from experiencing the stomach-churning fear of a parent dealing with a lost child. This was the case for Mary and Joseph as Jesus is temporarily lost among the crowds heading home from the Passover celebration in Jerusalem. Having made this annual trip 11 times before, traveling with the same caravan each time, at first the holy couple presumed that their boy was in the company of boys and girls his age. But He wasn't. What a shock it was to find that out.

When they did meet up with Jesus at the end of their search, right back at the Temple, Blessed Mother Mary had every right to offer a scold. The elderly teachers gathered around Him had cause to be astonished. Mary the mother could only ask: "Why?" St. Joseph let her ask the question.

Instead of offering excuses, Jesus forthrightly but respectfully countered her His question: "Why? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" We are not told what Joseph's reaction was.

Yet, for all of Jesus' adolescent assertion, which we know caused His parents to be confused, He nonetheless "goes down" from the Temple mount with them. He enters that long period of what we later would call His "hidden life" where He was "obedient to them for some 30 years.

At this point I ask you to use a little imagination to consider what Mary and Joseph might answer to some present-day correspondent interviewing them on the subject of family life, and asking them, "Is it sometimes difficult?"

Their ready answer "Yes, at times" would be followed by their admission, supplied by St. Luke when he wrote that "they did not understand what He said to them." Jesus was a different kind of child to parent.

Even though there is a vast difference between the Holy Family and our own, the common element is that difficulty that inevitably arises when offspring are offbeat with their parents. Such happenings can usually be worked through successfully when there is a context of love present. That's the encouraging ingredient of today's feast. We are right within the Christmas season when Love itself came to earth and entered human history.

One other element that deserves attention in today's Gospel excerpt: obedience. Sad to say, that is a nearly forgotten concept in today's world. With all the cultural push for self-referencing and self-conviction that the only true judge of our behavior, is ourselves, who is to obey whom? Who has the right to command? Well, just open your bible and you will have your perfect example in Jesus' life of obedience to His divine Father.

If an objective analysis of your family yields mixed results in the matter of obedience, don't be downhearted. Try to think positively; forgive generously; and remember lovingly. A good closing thought: "It takes about five or six years for a tree to produce nuts, but this doesn't apply to a family tree."

God love you and your family.

Keith J. Murphy
Supervisor
Funeral Director



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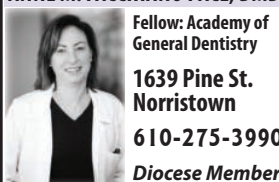
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We are Catholic men (sons, fathers, husbands, and grandfathers) living by principles inspired by faith, each on life's greatest adventure to discover the man God calls us to be. Will you join us?



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