

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*

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2024

TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



**CAN WE COUNT ON YOU
TO HELP US - HELP
OTHERS?**

CEREAL SUNDAY

DONATIONS FOR
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Rose for Life

Sunday, October 6, 2024 is Respect Life Sunday. At all Masses on October 5 & 6, the Knights of Columbus will be requesting your contributions and offering a Rose for Life emblem or prayer card. Your generous support benefits our area pro-life pregnancy centers such as Birthright in Coatesville & Pottstown and A Baby's Breath in Collegeville, Jeffersonville, and Phoenixville. Your gift helps these agencies provide needed baby and maternity items, plus volunteer staff will train young mothers to give care and love for their babies. These works of charity help vulnerable mothers choose life for their babies.



**Companions in Prayer and
Ministry** will meet on Sunday,
October 6th 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



40 Days for Life is a peaceful pro-life effort to help protect mothers and children from the harm of abortion. From 9/25 to 11/3/2024 our area will be uniting with hundreds of other cities for 40 days of prayer and fasting, community outreach and peaceful vigils. With God's help this campaign has saved over 22,000 babies from death by abortion, 247 abortion workers quit, and 132 abortion centers closed.

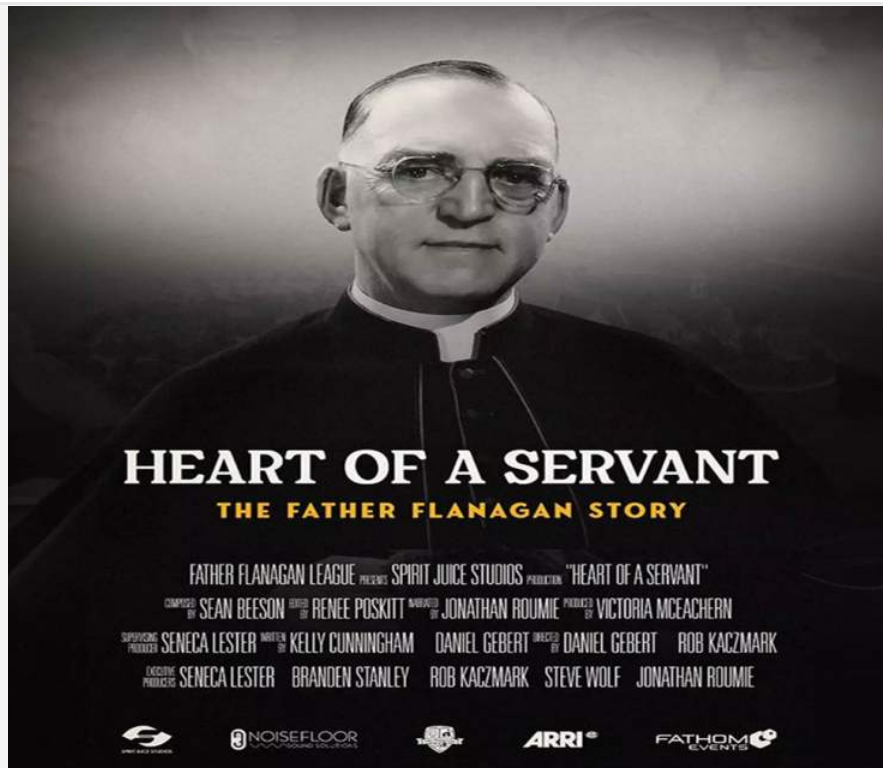
Won't you please join us to pray for one hour outside Planned Parenthood in Norristown? Our parish scheduled day is: **Monday, September 30, 2024.**

The sign up-sheet can be found on the table near the ramp entrance to the church. Please help build a culture of life by getting involved. Your peaceful and prayerful presence can help save lives! Feel free to contact Linda Korpel at lindaskorpel@gmail.com or 610-291-1138 with questions.



Join our **Caring for Friends Ministry** on **Wednesday, October 9th at 6:00pm** in the Parish Hall. Do God's work and at the same time make new friends from our parish.

All you need to do is make a pot of your favorite homemade soup, a hearty batch of chili, some mac and cheese or your favorite "comfort food" that can be scooped into a 16 oz. container. It needs to be able to be frozen so extra sauce or broth should be brought!



Be Part of This Historic Special Event

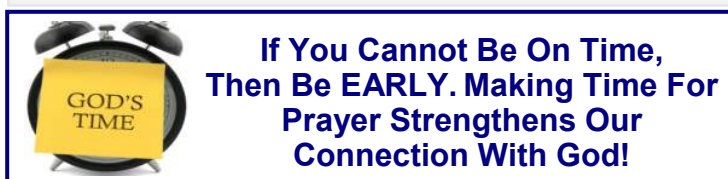
Don't miss your chance! Join us in theaters nationwide on Tuesday, October 8th for this one-time showing. Experience the moving story of Father Flanagan's life and his profound impact on the children of Boys Town. Learn about his legacy that continues to inspire generations and discover why he remains a hero, not just in his time, but in ours, as well.

Father Edward J. Flanagan is a familiar name to many Americans, often for the Oscar-winning 1938 film starring Spencer Tracy about Flanagan's groundbreaking child welfare organization. But the story extends far beyond that, to a man whose name and legacy are still well-known as far as Germany and Japan.

Flanagan gained influence and admiration over the course of his life from Presidents, CEOs, celebrities and more, but none mattered more to him than that of the children for whom he tirelessly worked. A sobering reminder of this was during WWII, as Flanagan saw droves of former Boys Town citizens go off to war. In fact, so many former Boys Town boys named Father Flanagan as their next of kin that the American War Dads Association named him as America's No. 1 War Dad.

Father Flanagan was a hero for his times, and for ours, too: his approach to child welfare remains a top influence in the field, and his frequent outspokenness against injustice showed he was always willing to tell the truth, regardless of risk.

The film will be shown on **Tuesday, October 8 at 7 p.m.** at the Regal VA King of Prussia, Goddard Boulevard, King of Prussia.



MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, September 28

4:00pm John & Mary Czapla
46th Wedding Anniversary Blessings

Sunday, September 29

8:00am For the People of Our Parish

10:15am Ed Gunsalus & Steve Barainyak
Requested by The Family

Monday, September 30

8:00am Vern Krueger
Birthday Remembrance
Requested by Wife, Jan & Family

Tuesday, October 1

8:00am Family Members of the Dengler & Hendzel Families
Requested by Frank & Dottie Hendzel

Wednesday, October 2

8:00am For the Intentions of Marianna Kalivas
Requested by Mom & Pop

Thursday, October 3

8:00am Kerry Foy Link

Friday, October 4

8:00am Vern Krueger
Requested by Wife, Jan

Saturday, October 5

NB: No 8:00am Mass on Saturdays

4:00pm Henry Palaszewski
Requested by Wife, Eleanor, Daughter, Lucille & Family

Sunday, October 6

8:00am For the People of Our Parish

10:15am Irmgard Scheurle Balza
Birthday Remembrance
Requested by The Bores & Stalker Families



Let Us Serve The Lord With Gladness!
 The following Ministers are scheduled for our Parish Masses.

Saturday evening, October 5:

4:00pm

Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion:

Valencia Zaremba

Lector: Connie Capaldo

Sunday morning, October 6:

8:00am

Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion:

Marjorie Pruskowski

Lector: Tony Viggiano

10:15am

Lector: Chris Kilian



Weekly Report

September 21 - 22, 2024

\$5,537.00

Thank you for your support of Our Parish!



ETERNAL REST, **GRANT UNTO THEM O LORD!**

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

Catherine Bankowski

*Who was called from this life on
 September 19, 2024*

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

This week the bread and wine for the celebration of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass is in loving memory of



Robert Dayoc, Sr.

**Birthday Remembrance,
September 29th**

at the Request of His Wife, Sue, Children & Grandchildren



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

Carmella DiSanto

**Birthday Remembrance,
October 3rd**

at the Request of Her Daughter, Sue Dayoc & Family

Reflection

+ Imagine a straight line. On one end is "Loving God with all your Strength, Mind, Heart, and Soul." On the other end is "Indifference." Imagine a second straight line. On one end is "Loving Your Neighbor as Yourself." On the other end is "Selfishness." On your death, you will be judged on your love of God and your love of neighbor. Right now, where are you on these lines? Where will you be on these lines tomorrow? Where will you be on these lines when you die?



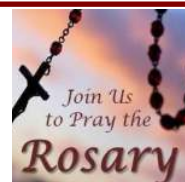
Our Parish is now offering Online Giving through Our Sunday Visitor. Please visit:

<https://osvhub.com/sacredheartbridgeport/giving/funds>

or Simply click on the QR Code.



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!

BINGO Night



**Friday,
October 11th**
Doors open 6:00 PM
Games at 7:00 PM
Parish Hall

Chance to win up to \$500.00

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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 Elusive Spirit of Forgiveness

By: Fr. Jerry Pokorsky

A world-weary practicing Catholic who suffered the slings and arrows that come with living a long life once remarked, "The trouble with Christianity is that you must forgive too many enemies." As we age, it is unnerving to admit honestly, "Show me the man, and I'll tell you what I don't like about him." The spirit of Christian forgiveness is mysterious and elusive.

At every Mass, we pray before receiving Communion, "forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us." The petition reinforces Jesus' entire teaching on forgiveness. "If you are offering your gift at the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift." (Mt. 5:23-24)

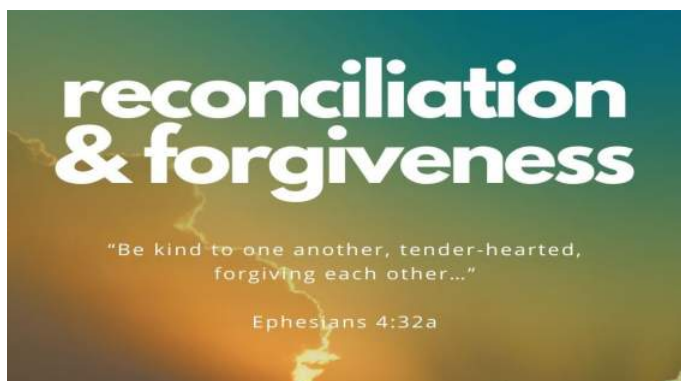
In the parable of the Unforgiving Servant, the master cancels the servant's debt, but the servant refuses to forgive a fellow servant: "You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you besought me; and should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?" (Mt. 18:32-33) Even the apostles struggled with the duty to forgive. "Peter came up and said to him, 'Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?' Jesus said to him, 'I do not say to you seven times, but seventy times seven.'" (Mt. 18: 21-22)

The command to forgive extends to our enemies. "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven." (Mt. 5:43-45) Yet, the spirit of forgiveness is elusive. Consider a simple mental exercise. 1) List the top five grievances of your life; 2) List five – or two or three—conscious acts of you granting forgiveness. Which of the two is easier?

Identifying grievances and the culprits is easy. If the offenses are objectively unjust, there is no harm with just anger, provided we control our reaction with reason. Jesus used just anger to cleanse the Temple. St. Paul acknowledges just and proportionate anger: "Be angry but do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger." (Eph. 4:26)

Anger is the most volatile of emotions and, hence, the most easily abused. So we tend to respond disproportionately, lashing out in anger rather than with a controlled rebuke. But if we deny just anger with unhealthy denial and repression, we face the danger of sublimating grievances, cultivating grudges, and seeking opportunities for revenge. "Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God; for it is written, 'Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.'" (Rom. 12:19)

The American Civil War is intriguing because, as with all civil wars, brothers fought brothers. A continuing mystery is the depth of hatred between warring parties among previously good friends. The many accounts of the battle engagements between friends and foes alike are almost too painful to read.



In 1938, Civil War veterans on both sides met at Gettysburg for the 75th Anniversary of the famous battle. During the re-enactment of Pickett's Charge, the old Confederates shouted their rebel yell. The grand finale was not hatred but [a touching expression of reconciliation](#). It is a terrible mistake to overlook the forgiveness that comes with time and choose to stir up old grievances. Time reduces the fires of hatred to glowing embers. Friendship, affection, and forgiveness help extinguish those dangerous glowing ashes.

There is no harm in recognizing the value of the adage: time heals all wounds. If we honestly assess our relationships, it is more likely our enemies and our grievances fade into irrelevance rather than canceling transgressions with acts of forgiveness. Many today are cynically awakening ancient hatreds rooted in legitimate historical grievances. Forgiving enemies will never be part of the modern Woke DEI religion.

The great British writer Evelyn Waugh, author of *Brideshead Revisited*, was a convert to the Catholic faith. Waugh's marriage and friendships were tumultuous. When a bitter adversary wrote to beg his forgiveness, Waugh curtly responded by postcard with only four letters: "O.K, E.W." The spirit of forgiveness begins with even the briefest acknowledgments of goodwill.

We may not want to admit it, but even a spouse can become an enemy. Implicit in wedding vows is the promise of continuing mutual forgiveness. A family that prays the "Our Father" together stays together.

Yet the makeup of every act of forgiveness is elusive. The passage of time helps. The struggle to dismiss grudges requires the same resolve we use in dismissing impure thoughts. Even the study of peace treaties between warring nations helps us to understand mutual forgiveness—but only to a point. We cannot demand unconditional surrender from our spouses, family members, friends, co-workers – our enemies. "He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone." (Jn. 8:7)

Do we grant forgiveness only when we receive an apology or a request for forgiveness? Does forgiveness require that we pretend that evil behavior has no consequences? Do I cultivate a disposition to forgive? Do I realize that even imperfect reconciliation is better than the bitterness of conflict, provided my adversaries do not ask me to condone evil?

It is impossible to love and forgive without God's grace. Our hardened hearts must be open to His love because we are not the author of love. "This is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the expiation for our sins." (1 Jn. 4:10) Our obligation to forgive sins is elusive, so we must take refuge in Jesus on the Cross, making His words our own: "Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do." (Lk. 23:24) Neither do we.



Fr. Jerry Pokorsky is a priest of the Diocese of Arlington who has also served as a financial administrator in the Diocese of Lincoln. Trained in business and accounting, he also holds a Master of Divinity and a Master's in moral theology. Father Pokorsky co-founded both CREDO and Adoremus, two organizations deeply engaged in authentic liturgical renewal. He writes regularly for a number of Catholic websites and magazines.

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