

SACRED HEART CHURCH

Bushwood, Maryland – Founded 1755

Father James Oberle, P.S.S.

Deacon Joseph Lloyd

Rectory Phone: 301-769-3100

Parish Website: www.sacredheartbushwood.org

Parish Email: sacredheart.bushwood.md@adw.org

Charlotte Morgan – Parish Secretary/Bookkeeper

Kimmie Gibson - Faith Formation Coord. - Email: HASHfaithformation@gmail.com

Masses: Sunday 6:30 & 8:00 a.m. and Thurs. & Fri. 8:00 a.m.

Eucharistic Adoration: Friday 8:30 – 9:30 a.m.

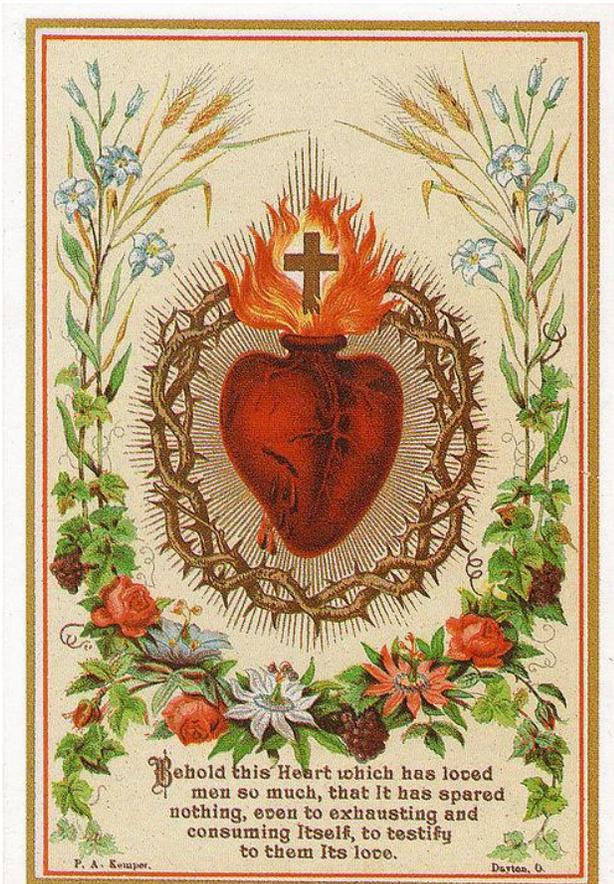
Confessions: Saturday 2:45 – 3:15 p.m.

Sunday 7:30 – 7:50 a.m. and Friday 8:30 – 9:00 a.m.

Baptisms: By appointment. **Weddings:** Contact Father six months in advance.

Rectory Office Hours: Mon. – Fri. 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Seventh District Catholic Aid Society: 240-256-4101



Welcome to the Parish Community of Sacred Heart Church! To become a registered parishioner, complete either the online parish registration or the pink registration forms located on the tables at the entrance of the church. If you are interested in participating in any of the ministries available here, beginning new ones, or if you have any questions, please feel free to contact the rectory. We are glad you have joined us, and may God bless you!

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 2025
1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

MASS INTENTIONS

Mon.	Dec.	1	NO MASS	
Tues.	Dec.	2	8:00 a.m.	<i>Mass at Holy Angels</i>
Wed.	Dec.	3	8:00 a.m.	<i>Mass at Holy Angels</i>
Thurs.	Dec.	4	8:00 a.m.	Mr. & Mrs. Gynn Swann
Fri.	Dec.	5	8:00 a.m.	Bert Dean
Sat.	Dec.	6	4:30 p.m.	<i>Mass at Holy Angels</i>
Sun.	Dec.	7	6:30 a.m.	Parishioners of S.H. & H.A.
			8:00 a.m.	Margaret E. Armstrong
			10:30 a.m.	<i>Mass at Holy Angels</i>

ADVENT CELEBRATION: Join us as we celebrate the beginning of Advent and prepare our way for Jesus' birth today from Noon – 3pm at Sacred Heart Hall. This event is a potluck, and we are seeking lunch and dessert donations. Please plan to bring the dishes when you arrive. Tea, coffee, and a hot chocolate bar will be provided, as well as water and punch. Activities will include the following: making Advent wreath's, gingerbread houses, children's crafts, Rosary making, raffle, Nativity, and caroling. For any questions, please reach out to Amy Williams (301)904-5416 or at miaandkyle11@gmail.com. We will be collecting toys for the Toys for Tots Toy Drive! Please bring a new unopened toy to be donated to this great cause.

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION - HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION: The Church celebrates the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary on Monday, December 8th. This solemnity is a Holy Day of Obligation. The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass will be offered at the following times: Monday, December 8th at 8:00am at Holy Angels and at 7pm at Sacred Heart.

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS CHOIR PRACTICE: The choir will be practicing on Tuesday, December 2nd, from 7 - 8pm for Advent and Christmas. New voices are welcome!

CHILDREN'S TREE: Please consider taking a tag from our Children's Tree. The names on the tree are local families that need help providing gifts for their children at Christmas. Please have the gifts returned to the church by **December 14th**.

\$100 A MONTH CLUB WINNER: The \$100 A Month Club winner for November is Patricia Reid.

HOUSEHOLD BLESSING OF AN ADVENT WREATH: Lord our God, we praise you for your Son, Jesus Christ: he is Emmanuel, the hope of the peoples, he is the wisdom that teaches and guides us, he is the Savior of every nation. Lord God, let your blessing come upon us as we light the candles of this wreath. May the wreath and its light be a sign of Christ's promise to bring us salvation. May he come quickly and not delay. Through Christ our Lord. AMEN.

SACRAMENTAL AWARENESS

We are a Church of sacraments. Sacraments are instituted by Christ to bring grace into our lives. The Sacraments employ sensible signs to signify what is being effected. Thus, we use water to baptize, oil to chrismate (Confirm), bread and wine to celebrate Eucharist.

It is said that the Eucharist makes the Church, and only the Church can consecrate the Eucharist. This is a truism. Without the Church there would be no Sacraments and at the same time the Sacraments are vital for the Church.

We are initiated via Baptism. We are washed of our sin (hence water) and baptized into the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Eucharist completes the initiation process. It is nourishment for our journey through life. Confirmation is a deepening of our faith. The Holy Spirit strengthens us so that we can be faithful to our baptismal promises. The Sacraments of healing (Penance and Anointing of the Sick) promote spiritual healing. Finally, the Sacraments of Marriage and Priesthood bring about a sense of order in our society. Marriage and family are essential for the structure of society and they are the most basic unit of society. Both Priesthood and Marriage “demand” a sense of commitment. One is essentially saying, “I will be faithful for all of my life.”

Sacraments are a part of what is called the “Public Worship of the Church.” They have rules and regulations with respect to how they are to be celebrated. Where possible (Penance excluded) they should be celebrated during Holy Mass. The community of believers should take responsibility to witness and support those who are receiving the Sacrament.

It would be most appropriate if parents reflected on their own commitment and have helped their children better understand/appreciate each of Sacraments.

Because of their familiarity they can be taken for granted. We need to step back and reflect: Why does the Church do this? What does it mean to me? How can I deepen my appreciation for these gifts that God has given to me? How might I be more attentive to what we are celebrating?

SACRED HEART CHAPEL: The Sacred Heart Adoration Chapel is temporarily closed due to renovations being done in the sacristy. The chapel space was needed for storage during the renovations. We will announce when the chapel is available once again.

REQUEST FOR INTERCESSORY PRAYER: Sick: Leroy Russell, Bernard Cullins, Melvin Armstrong, Wendy Onstead, Nancy Cortinovic, Terry Abell Johnson, Daniel Quade, Paul Guy, Charles Beaver, Keith Polk, Joann Beavers, Barbara Hill, Robert & Diane Anderson, Buddy & Virgie Banagan, Barbara Lilly, Elaine Frederick and J.F. Williams.

NOVEMBER VOTIVE INTENTIONS

Blessed Mother Altar – In memory of Lucile Doepkens. Donated by Satch & Carol Ann Hall.

St. Joseph Altar – In memory of Bert Dean. Donated by Carol Dean.

Sacred Heart Altar – In memory of Mark Bailey. Donated by Satch & Carol Ann Hall.

SUNDAY REFLECTION

Being Prepared

“Therefore, stay awake! For you do not know on which day your Lord will come. Be sure of this: if the master of the house had known the hour of night when the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and not let his house be broken into. So too, you also must be prepared, for at an hour you do not expect, the Son of Man will come.” Matthew 24:42–44

How does one “stay awake” as our Lord commands us? We receive this holy exhortation as we enter into a new liturgical year. In Advent, we begin at the beginning. We ponder the Incarnate Son of God dwelling as a human Child in the precious womb of the Blessed Virgin Mary. We anticipate the celebration of His birth into the world at Christmas. As the liturgical year progresses, we will prayerfully walk through each moment of His life, from the events of His childhood, to His public ministry, and ultimately His death, resurrection, and ascension into Heaven.

Our Lord’s exhortation to stay awake invites us to be attentive to the ways that the Son of God’s human life speaks to us, calling us to become fully united to Him so as to share in the glorious gifts of holiness in this life and eternal salvation in the next. After exhorting us to stay awake, the Son of God said, “For you do not know on which day your Lord will come.” Of course, we know He came into this world over 2,000 years ago in physical form. This exhortation is not only a call to ponder that event long ago; it’s also an invitation and exhortation to become continuously more attentive to the effect that His historical coming has upon us today. Advent is a season that invites us to reflect on Christ’s first coming in Bethlehem, His daily coming to us in grace, and His final coming at the end of time. These moments are intimately connected, as each prepares us more fully for the next.

From Heaven, the Son of God continues to descend to us, inviting each of us to conceive Him in our souls by grace, to be attentive to His divine presence within us, and to nurture His divine presence so that He will grow and live within us, making us true members of His Body, the Church. Staying awake means being aware of Christ’s presence in every moment and cultivating a personal relationship with Him that is alive and growing. This Advent, ask yourself: How am I nurturing my relationship with Jesus so that I am ready to meet Him whenever He comes?

Jesus calls us to be prepared at every moment of every day, “for at an hour you do not expect, the Son of Man will come.” Though this is a promise that He will return one day to judge the living and the dead at the end of time, it is also a promise that He relentlessly pursues us here and now, communicating to us by grace and inviting us to be transformed more fully, so as to love Him and manifest His love to the world around us. As we mature in our faith, God often speaks in subtler ways, inviting us to listen with the ears of our hearts. These gentle whispers of grace require us to be even more attuned to His presence, ready to respond to His call in the quiet moments of our day.

Reflect today on Jesus’ exhortation to be awake, vigilant, attentive, and ready to love Him in the smallest ways. To stay spiritually awake, cultivate habits that keep you attuned to God’s presence: set aside time for daily prayer, receive the sacraments frequently, and be mindful of opportunities to serve others. These practices will help you remain vigilant and ready to encounter Christ at any moment. Search for Him this Advent, and never tire of loving Him in your prayer and in those around you. The Son of God continuously comes to you “at an hour you do not expect.” By building a spiritual habit of being prepared, you will meet and love Him throughout your day.

My ever-present Lord, You surround me with Your grace and flood me with Your mercy day and night. Please give me a heart that is attentive and receptive to You so that I can receive all that You wish to bestow and love You and others with Your Sacred Heart. Jesus, I trust in You.