

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.

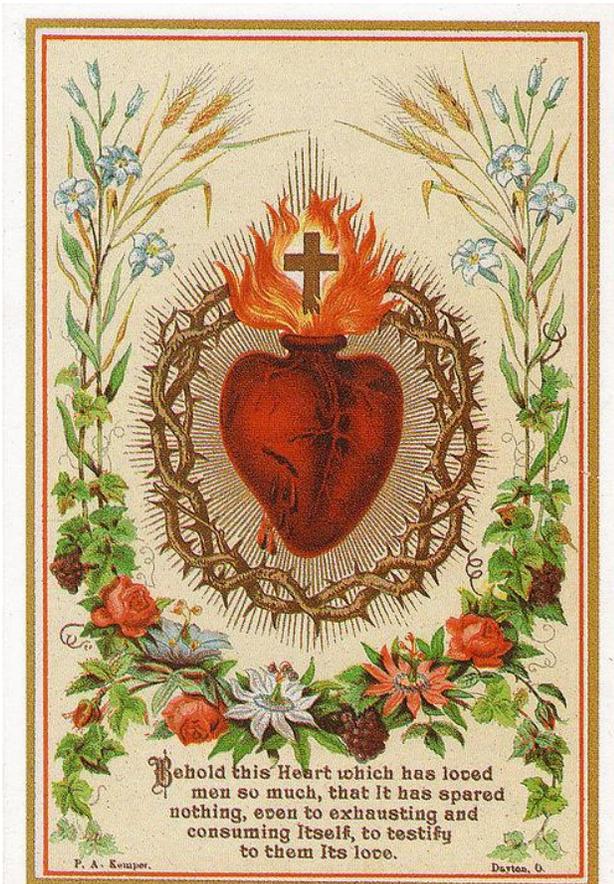
Confessions: Saturday 2:45 – 3:15 p.m.

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, DECEMBER 7, 2025
2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

MASS INTENTIONS

Mon.	Dec.	8	8:00 a.m.	<i>Mass at Holy Angels</i>
			7:00 p.m.	Parishioners of S.H. & H.A.
Tues.	Dec.	9	8:00 a.m.	<i>Mass at Holy Angels</i>
Wed.	Dec.	10	8:00 a.m.	<i>Mass at Holy Angels</i>
Thurs.	Dec.	11	8:00 a.m.	F. Diane Parker
Fri.	Dec.	12	8:00 a.m.	Laurie Gibson, Sr.
Sat.	Dec.	13	4:30 p.m.	<i>Mass at Holy Angels</i>
Sun.	Dec.	14	6:30 a.m.	Joseph Quade, Sr.
			8:00 a.m.	George & Barbara McWilliams
			10:30 a.m.	<i>Mass at Holy Angels</i>

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.

PARISH OFFICE HOURS: The Parish Office will observe the Immaculate Conception Holy Day on Monday, December 8. The Parish Office will re-open on Tuesday, December 9 at 9 AM.

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS CHOIR PRACTICE: The choir will be practicing on Tuesday, December 9TH, 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**.

CHRISTMAS FLOWER ENVELOPES: Please return your envelopes by **December 14th**. Christmas Flower envelopes are available on the tables at the entrance of the church.

NEXT SUNDAY'S SECOND COLLECTION: Next Sunday's Second Collection is the national collection for the benefit of the Retirement Fund for Religious. Your gift will provide essential care for nearly 25,000 senior sisters, brothers, and religious order priests who have dedicated their lives to serving others.

ADVENT CONFESSIONS: The Sacrament of Penance will be offered by Fr. James Oberle and Fr. John Nguyen at Sacred Heart on Tuesday, December 16, 5:30-7:00 PM and at Holy Angels on Thursday, December 18, 5:30-7:00 PM.

MISSIONARY DISCIPLES

The 3rd priority that was established at the Convocation is the formation of missionary disciples. This is not an elite group; this is each and everyone of us. All of us are called and sent by Christ.

Our call began at our baptism. We were anointed as priest, prophet and king. As a priest we are called to offer the sacrifice of our lives, as prophet we are to proclaim the Gospel by what we say and do, lastly, we are called to administer God's gifts in a way that enhances the dignity of all of God's children.

How do we do this? In the document on the Church (Lumen Gentium) proclaimed at Vatican II (Nov. 21, 1964) the Church articulated a universal call to holiness. Each of us should reflect on our relationship with God. The fundamental question is: how can I serve God? While all of my service is directed to God, it is experienced/expressed in my service to God's people.

For most it will be as a married person. How do I provide care for my spouse and my children? Am I bringing them closer to God by my words and deeds? For a limited number there is a call to priesthood, diaconate, monastic life and the consecrated life. For these the service is much broader than one's immediate family.

Probably none of us will be called to give our life as a martyr. Thus, the question arises: How do I give my life, how do I proclaim the Gospel?

In both Holy Angels and Sacred Heart there is a significant need for altar servers, lectors, extraordinary ministers of the Eucharist, choir members, catechists, visitors to the homebound, greeters, and those who prepare our liturgical environment (flowers, candles, etc.). For all of these the major cost is time. Will I give that time so as to proclaim Jesus Christ?

Each of us has been called, each of us has been inserted into the life of Christ, each of us now needs to respond. Take some time in prayer and ask God to reveal to you how you are to live out your discipleship. God will never be outdone in generosity!

ALTAR FLOWERS: The flowers on the Main Altar, the Blessed Mother Altar and the St. Joseph Altar were given in memory of Joseph Quade, Sr. Donated by Kevin & Sherry Quade.

SACRED HEART CHAPEL: The Sacred Heart Adoration Chapel is now open.

REQUEST FOR INTERCESSORY PRAYER: Deceased: Billy Hall **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, Elaine Frederick and J.F. Williams.

DECEMBER VOTIVE INTENTIONS

Blessed Mother Altar – In memory of Elmer & Patsy Spalding. Given by Donna & Steve Gibson

St. Joseph Altar – In memory Francis & Eloise Gibson. Given by Donna & Steve Gibson

Sacred Heart Altar – In memory of Margaret Armstrong. Given by the Armstrong Family.

SUNDAY REFLECTION

Repentance—the Foundation of Holiness

“I am baptizing you with water, for repentance, but the one who is coming after me is mightier than I. I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fan is in his hand. He will clear his threshing floor and gather his wheat into his barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.” Matthew 3:11–12

This passage comes just before Jesus is baptized and begins His public ministry. John the Baptist had been ministering in the desert of Judea, preaching, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!” Many came to him to be baptized with a baptism of repentance. But when John saw many scribes and Pharisees coming to him, he said, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? Produce good fruit as evidence of your repentance.” The passage above is John’s warning to them—and to us—about what will happen if we fail to repent.

At that time, when wheat was harvested, it was left to dry. Then, a winnowing fan was used to blow the wheat and chaff into the air. The lighter chaff would blow away, while the grains of wheat would fall to the ground to be gathered, milled into flour, and used for baking. John uses this familiar image to depict what Jesus will do with the righteous and the wicked. The righteous are like the grains of wheat that will be gathered and brought to Heaven. The wicked are like the chaff that, once separated from the righteous, will burn in the unquenchable fire of hell.

Though it is comforting to speak of the glories of Heaven and to anticipate being brought there by our Lord, it is necessary to also consider the reality of the unquenchable fires of hell. Pondering the reality of those unquenchable fires is something we should not neglect.

In his spiritual classic, *The Spiritual Exercises*, Saint Ignatius of Loyola presents a format for a thirty-day directed silent retreat, considered by many to be the ideal retreat experience. During the first week of that retreat, the retreatant focuses primarily upon mortal sin and its consequences—the unquenchable fires of hell. Why would Saint Ignatius begin his retreat this way? Because he understood that the foundation of our growth in union with God is repentance, and repentance requires an honest and thorough examination of sin and its consequences.

Reflect today on the unquenchable fires of hell, and allow yourself to foster a burning desire to flee from every sin that leads to that end. As we enter the second week of the penitential season of Advent, ponder this warning from Saint John the Baptist. Hear him speak those words directly to you. We must fear sin and avoid it, as much as we want to avoid the unquenchable fires of hell. Start with this foundational truth, so that having fostered deep repentance, you are ready to turn your heart and mind toward the glorious promise of Heaven.

Jesus, our Just Judge, You hold the winnowing fan in Your sacred hand and separate the righteous from the sinner. Please grant me the grace to see my sin clearly, so that I may humbly acknowledge it and turn from it with all my might. May I build this foundation of repentance during Advent, so that Christmas becomes an even greater time of union with You. Jesus, I trust in You.