

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.

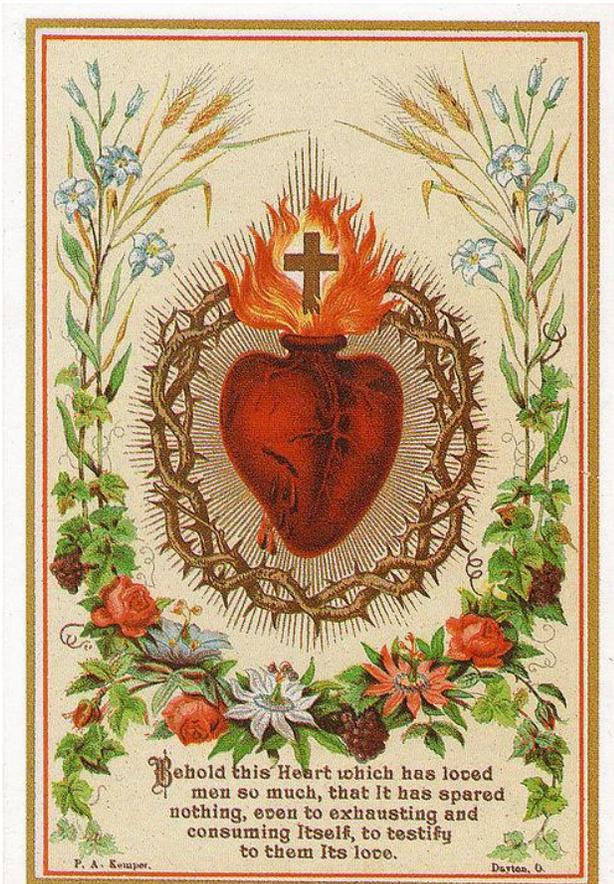
Confessions: Saturday 2:45 – 3:15 p.m.

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 14, 2025
3rd SUNDAY OF ADVENT

MASS INTENTIONS

Mon.	Dec.	15	NO Mass	
Tues.	Dec.	16	8:00 a.m.	<i>Mass at Holy Angels</i>
Wed.	Dec.	17	8:00 a.m.	<i>Mass at Holy Angels</i>
Thurs.	Dec.	18	8:00 a.m.	Holy Souls
Fri.	Dec.	19	8:00 a.m.	Bernadette Zimmerman
Sat.	Dec.	20	4:30 p.m.	<i>Mass at Holy Angels</i>
Sun.	Dec.	21	6:30 a.m.	Parishioners of S.H. & H.A.
			8:00 a.m.	John G. Lacey, Sr.
			10:30 a.m.	<i>Mass at Holy Angels</i>

TODAY'S SECOND COLLECTION: Today'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 THIS WEEK: 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.

CHILDREN'S TREE: Please have your gifts returned to the church by **December 14th**.

CHRISTMAS FLOWER ENVELOPES: Please return your Christmas flower envelopes by **December 14th**.

2026 MASS INTENTIONS: The book is now opened for the 2026 Mass Intentions. Please contact the parish office to schedule your Mass intentions. Due to the increase of deceased parishioners this year and the unavailability of saying Masses for them in 2025, we are asking that you limit the amount of Masses that you request to five. Thank you for your understanding.

DECORATING THE CHURCH: We will be decorating the church for Christmas on Sunday, December 21st at 9am. Many hands are needed and all are welcome!

ALTAR FLOWERS: The flowers this weekend 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.

LOSS OF OUR YOUTH

If we look around our Church it is obvious that there are very few people in their late teens, twenties, and thirties. This is occurring not only in our parishes but in almost all the “mainline” religious traditions.

We need to ask ourselves why?

If there is any “good news” in the decline, it seems that the young adults are not angry at God or the Church. They simply do not see a need for God. Since we live in a world where we can control almost everything, they do not look to any kind of divine intervention.

If they pray, and many do, they feel that they can do it on their own. They do not need organized religion.

This individualism is reinforced by social media. Something that should have brought us together is isolating us. This is especially true of young men. There are countries that have recognized this isolation (Norway, Finland) and are actively exploring opportunities to enhance social communication.

Many of our young adults feel that being ethical and trying to be aware of those in need is sufficient. They are loving and caring but with an individual approach. They are comfortable setting their own standards.

I noted above that most mainline traditions are seeing a decline in participation by the young. According to The Economist the Orthodox traditions is attracting many young men. Their rationale seems to be that the other Christian traditions are too soft. There are no demands; no requirements, these men want to make a “sacrifice” they want something or some One to die for. Perhaps we have made Catholicism too easy and thus not relevant. It is a question we should explore.

At the recent National Catholic Youth Conference (NCYC) young adults were asked what kept them close to the Church. The answer most often given was friends who go to Church. In other words, if I have other young adults I can relate to, then I will join them. Peer pressure can sometimes be beneficial.

If you have ideas/suggestions, please pass them on to me and I will forward them to the archdiocese.

SENIOR’S CHRISTMAS PARTY: The 7th District Optimist Club will be hosting their annual Senior’s Christmas Party today, Sunday, December 21st starting at 12 noon at Holy Angels Hall.

REQUEST FOR INTERCESSORY PRAYER: Sick: Amanda Koenig, 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.

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

Rejoicing in the Cross

“Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind regain their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have the good news proclaimed to them. And blessed is the one who takes no offense at me.” Matthew 11:4–6

Suppose a priest came to your church to put on a parish mission, and during that mission he miraculously healed the blind, crippled, terminally ill, and deaf. What if he even raised the dead to life? How would you respond? Most likely with amazement! You’d contact everyone close to you and tell them about those miracles, encouraging them to attend the next session.

Though Jesus’ ministry was filled with miracles, they were far from the most important part of His mission. His miracles healed bodies that would eventually die, but His preaching healed souls that would live forever because His preaching ultimately pointed to His greatest work—to suffer and die for the salvation of souls. If you were alive as Jesus walked the earth, performed miracles, preached the Good News, suffered death and rose again, which of His actions would have the greatest effect on you? When we consider our Lord’s mission, we must consider it all as one unified whole, not missing the most important aspects. From a faith perspective, Jesus’ suffering, death, and Resurrection are clearly His greatest acts. By freely embracing suffering and death, He transformed the worst into the best: the consequence of sin—which is death—into the instrument of eternal life. When Jesus said, “And blessed is the one who takes no offense at me,” He was identifying those as blessed who discovered the great value of His Cross.

If we were to ask Jesus’ first followers whether they would prefer to see Jesus perform miracles or suffer and die, most likely they would prefer the miracles. Such a question might have even left them confused. Why would anyone want to see a great prophet suffer and die? Yet, today, from a theological perspective, it is clear that Jesus’ suffering, death, and Resurrection are the greatest acts in human history.

Imagine being our Blessed Mother who witnessed it all, stood by her Son as He endured His Cross, and rejoiced with Him when He rose. Unquestionably, if we asked our Blessed Mother whether she preferred to see a few miracles from her Son or to witness His perfect sacrifice that brought salvation to the world, her holy and sorrowful heart would choose the latter.

Reflect today on these questions within the context of your own life. When you pray, do you primarily ask for favors, blessings, or miracles? Or do you primarily pray for the Cross? Do you see greater value in having God remove some suffering from your life or in transforming your suffering by the power of His Cross? Ask for the grace to die with our Lord, to become a living sacrifice of love, and to have the strength to lay down your life for others. By choosing that which has eternal value, you choose the better part and will rejoice in that better part forever.

My sacrificial Lord, You invite me to take no offense at Your suffering and death; to see beyond the pain, blood, and physical death; and to discover the unfathomable riches of Your Sacrifice. Please give me the eyes of faith to see the value of not only accepting Your Cross, but also to see the value of living Your Passion in my own life by laying down my life with You. Jesus, I trust in You.