

# 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](http://www.sacredheartbushwood.org)

**Parish Email:** [sacredheart.bushwood.md@adw.org](mailto:sacredheart.bushwood.md@adw.org)

**Charlotte Morgan – Parish Secretary/Bookkeeper**

**Kimmie Gibson - Faith Formation Coord. - Email:** [HASHfaithformation@gmail.com](mailto: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.

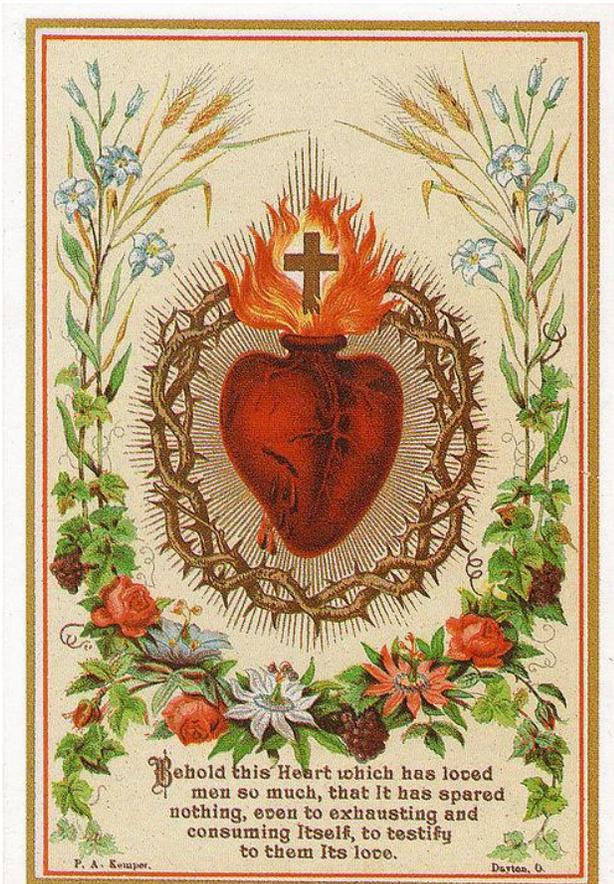
**Confessions:** Saturday 2:45 – 3:15 p.m.

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 21, 2025*  
*4<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT*

**MASS INTENTIONS**

Mon.	Dec.	22	NO MASS	
Tues.	Dec.	23	8:00 a.m.	<i>Mass at Holy Angels</i>
Wed.	Dec.	24	4:30 p.m.	<b>Jackson Hall</b>
			4:30 p.m.	<i>Mass at Holy Angels</i>
Thurs.	Dec.	25	8:00 a.m.	<b>Int. Flower Donors</b>
			10:30 a.m.	<i>Mass at Holy Angels</i>
Fri.	Dec.	26	NO MASS	
Sat.	Dec.	27	4:30 p.m.	<i>Mass at Holy Angels</i>
Sun.	Dec.	28	6:30 a.m.	<b>Mr. Paul Wise</b>
			8:00 a.m.	<b>Carroll Cusic</b>
			10:30 a.m.	<i>Mass at Holy Angels</i>

**CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE:** The Christmas Mass schedule for Sacred Heart will be; Christmas Vigil, December 24<sup>th</sup> at 4:30 pm and Christmas Day December 25<sup>th</sup> at 8 am. There will be no Midnight Mass this year.

**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 today, Sunday, December 21<sup>st</sup> at 9am. Many hands are needed and all are welcome!

**CHRISTMAS RECESS:** The Parish Office will observe the Christmas holiday beginning Tuesday, December 23. The Office will re-open on Monday, December 29 at 9 AM.

**SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD - HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION:** The Church celebrates the Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God next week. This solemnity is a Holy Day of Obligation. The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass will be offered at the following times and places: Wednesday, December 31 at **7 PM** (Holy Angels) and Thursday, January 1 at **10:30 AM** (Sacred Heart).

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

**HOUSEHOLD BLESSING OF A NATIVITY SCENE:** God of every nation and people, from the very beginning of creation you have made manifest your love: when our need for a Savior was great you sent your Son to be born of the Virgin Mary. To our lives he brings joy and peace, justice, mercy, and love.

Lord, bless all who look upon this manger; may it remind us of the humble birth of Jesus, and raise our thoughts to him, who is God-with-us and Savior of all. Who lives and reigns for ever and ever. AMEN.

**ST. ALOYSIUS CHRISTMAS DINNER:** St. Aloysius Parish in Leonardtown will host a free community Christmas dinner on Christmas Day, December 25, from 1 PM to 4 PM in the church hall located at 22800 Washington St. All are welcome to celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

**EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION & WORSHIP NIGHT:** Join us on Sunday, December 28, 6 to 7:30pm at St. Aloysius Church, Leonardtown for an amazing evening of prayer including: Eucharistic Adoration, Reflection and Eucharistic Procession. This will be your last opportunity to gain the plenary indulgence at St. Aloysius Church for the Jubilee Year! The Jubilee Year 2025 will conclude in local dioceses on December 28, 2025 (and in Rome on January 6, 2026, with the closing of the Holy Door of St. Peter's Basilica). Music provided by: Fiat! Contact Bread of Life Center for Peace for more information at: 301-475-7139 also visit us at: [www.breadoflifecenterforpeace.org](http://www.breadoflifecenterforpeace.org).

**BEGIN 2026 IN THE PRESCENCE OF THE LORD:** All are invited to consecrate the first hour of the New Year to Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament at a Candlelight Eucharistic Adoration on Thursday, January 1, from Midnight to 1:00 AM, at Historic St. Ignatius Church, 17682 Villa Road, St. Inigoes, MD. Join us in prayerful silence, adoration, and thanksgiving as we place the year ahead into God's hands. For questions, please email Fr. Patrick Agustin at [agustinp@adw.org](mailto:agustinp@adw.org).

**SOMD CATHOLIC:** Explore SOMD Catholic ([www.SOMDCatholic.org](http://www.SOMDCatholic.org)), created to help unite and support our Catholic community in Southern Maryland. From Mass times and parish events to Bible studies and spiritual resources, everything you need is gathered in one easy-to-use site. Stay connected—join our Flocknote for weekly updates on Catholic events and opportunities near you!

**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

### Saint Joseph, Our Patron and Protector

*Such was his intention when, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary your wife into your home. For it is through the Holy Spirit that this child has been conceived in her." [Matthew 1:20](#)*

Joseph knew that the penalty for adultery was death by stoning. His heart must have been deeply conflicted. On one hand, the virtues of his betrothed wife, Mary, were abundantly clear. Mary radiated holiness. Impurity was foreign to her Immaculate Heart. Yet she was pregnant, and Joseph was not the father. What should he do?

To protect Mary from public shame, Joseph decided to do what he believed was the most merciful thing—he “decided to divorce her quietly. Such was his intention...” Though little is known about Joseph, this Gospel passage identifies him as “a righteous man.” Many saints, popes, and Church documents highlight his unquestionable sanctity. He was not immaculate and free from sin as was his wife, but God the Father would have chosen a righteous and holy man to be the foster father of the Son of God.

Joseph’s actions reveal his deep faith. As he slept, “the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, ‘Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary your wife into your home. For it is through the Holy Spirit that this child has been conceived in her.’” The angel explained to him that Isaiah prophesied that the Messiah would be born of a virgin (see [Isaiah 7:14](#)) and that Joseph was to take Mary and her unborn Son into his home and care for them. When he awoke, he did as the angel commanded.

Joseph’s dream was no ordinary dream. The Holy Spirit accompanied the angel and instilled the certitude of faith in Joseph’s mind, empowering his will to obey God’s will. Joseph became the father and guardian of the Savior of the World. On December 8, 1847, Pope Pius IX declared Saint Joseph to be the Universal Patron and Protector of the Catholic Church. Just as he protected the Son of God, so he intercedes for us who are members of Christ’s body, the Church.

As our Advent season enters its final week, we are reminded of the role that Jesus’ foster father played not only in the life of the Holy Family, but also about the role Saint Joseph continues to play in the life of the Church and in each one of our lives. His intercessory power from Heaven is great, and we should not hesitate to call upon his prayers, especially when we need protection, struggle with fear, or face some grave challenge.

Reflect today on your personal devotion to Saint Joseph. Ponder, especially, his deep faith and obedience to the will of God as was communicated to him in a dream. Strive to imitate that obedience in your own life, never hesitating to undertake the mission God has given you. Turn to Saint Joseph in prayer and know that his powerful intercession will help protect you and win God’s grace in the areas you need it the most.

*Saint Joseph, you were a holy and righteous man, entrusted with the guardianship of the Mother of God and the Son of God. You fulfilled your role faithfully and continue that role from Heaven, protecting all of God’s children through your intercession. Please pray for me, that I will imitate your obedience and will be protected from all sin so as to fulfill the unique role God has given me. Saint Joseph, pray for me. Jesus, I trust in You.*