

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.

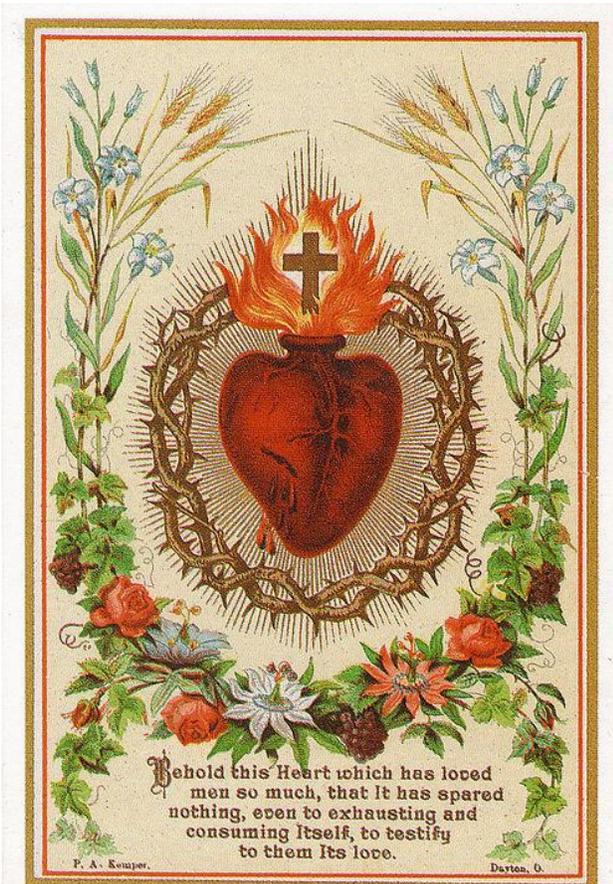
Confessions: Saturday 2:45 – 3:15 p.m.

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 28, 2025
THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH

MASS INTENTIONS

Mon.	Dec.	29	NO MASS	
Tues.	Dec.	30	8:00 a.m.	<i>Mass at Holy Angels</i>
Wed.	Dec.	31	7:00 p.m.	<i>Mass at Holy Angels</i>
Thurs.	Jan.	1	10:30 a.m.	Parishioners of S.H. & H.A.
Fri.	Jan.	2	8:00 a.m.	William "Billy" Hall
Sat.	Jan.	3	9:00 a.m.	<i>Mass at Holy Angels</i>
			4:30 p.m.	<i>Mass at Holy Angels</i>
Sun.	Jan.	4	6:30 a.m.	Parishioners of S.H. & H.A.
			8:00 a.m.	James "Mike" Lacey
			10:30 a.m.	<i>Mass at Holy Angels</i>

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).

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.

HAPPY NEW YEAR: The Parish Office will be closed on Thursday, January 1, 2026. The office will reopen on Friday, January 2nd.

HOUSEHOLD BLESSING OF THE NEW YEAR: Remember us, O God; from age to age be our comforter. You have given us the wonder of time, blessings in days and nights, seasons and years. Bless your children at the turning of the year and fill the months ahead with the bright hope that is ours in the coming of Christ. You are our God, living and reigning, forever and ever. AMEN.

SEVENTH DISTRICT CATHOLIC AID SOCIETY: Thank you for your sustained support to the Poor Box at Sacred Heart. These funds help the Seventh District Catholic Aid Society respond to our brothers and sisters in need. SDCAS also helps provide referrals to Catholic Charities and information on permanent resources. We also thank parishioners who are making consistent offerings to the Poor Box through ParishSoft Giving. May God bless you.

BEGIN 2026 IN THE PRESENCE 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. Ingoes, 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.

2026 \$100 A MONTH CLUB TICKETS: Sacred Heart 2026 \$100 A Month Club is now being formed. C.D. & Patty Rale are the raffle chairman.

SOMD CATHOLIC: Explore SOMD Catholic (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!

2026 WEDDING ANNIVERSARY MASS: Join us at the Annual Wedding Anniversary Mass to honor the Vocation of Marriage on Saturday, February 14, 2026, 10:00 a.m. at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. This Annual Mass is a celebration of the living vocation of all couples who provide a Catholic witness to the beauty of the Sacrament of Matrimony. Couples, please register with your parish office by January 31st to attend the Mass and/or request a certificate in honor of their anniversary year. All married couples and their families are welcome, regardless of how long you have been married. Please contact your parish office to register.

MENTAL HEALTH MINISTRY: Mental Health Ministry presents QPR (Question, Persuade, Refer) Suicide Prevention Training on Saturday, January 24th, 9:00 AM- NOON at Saint Aloysius Parish Hall 22800 Washington Street, Leonardtown, MD 20650. Participants are asked to register by January 17th, using the sign-up link: <https://saintaloyuschurch.org/qpr-question-persuade-refer-suicide-prevention-training> For questions contact Liz Tomaszewski at liz.tomaszewski@gmail.com To learn more about the QPR Institute: <https://qprinstitute.com/about-qpr>

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

Family Life and the Holy Family

When the magi had departed, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Rise, take the child and his mother, flee to Egypt, and stay there until I tell you. Herod is going to search for the child to destroy him." Joseph rose and took the child and his mother by night and departed for Egypt. Matthew 2:13–14

Today we honor and ponder the family life of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph. The love within their home exceeded that of any other household, and the love within their family poured forth upon their extended family and wider community. Scripture gives us limited details about the life of the Holy Family. What we do know is that from the very beginning, they suffered through enormous challenges.

Mary's pregnancy was the first challenge they faced. She conceived the Christ Child before she and Joseph lived together. Though she knew how she conceived the Son of God, Joseph did not understand until the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream. We can imagine that relatives and members of the community expressed their disapproval, given that the angel of the Lord did not reveal the truth to everyone.

Jesus was born far away from their home, in the little town of Bethlehem, in a cave, where animals dwelt. Humble shepherds were their first guests, and the magi from the East soon followed. Within a year or two after Jesus' birth, this family had to uproot from their home and flee to Egypt, find accommodations, and earn a living because Herod sought to kill the child Jesus.

After Herod's death, Joseph was instructed in two subsequent dreams that he could return to Israel and was to move his family to the small and unremarkable village of Nazareth. Though Nazareth was not held in high esteem, it was within this simple setting that Jesus was raised and learned the virtues of hard work, obedience, and humility. Nazareth, though overlooked by the world, became the sacred ground where the Savior of the world was prepared for His mission. Finally, given that Saint Joseph is not mentioned during the time that Jesus exercised His public ministry, it is commonly believed that Jesus and His mother experienced the human sorrow of Joseph's earthly death.

Despite the hardships the Holy Family endured, the love in their home overshadowed every challenge, making their family life a source of the utmost consolation and joy. Amidst the trials they faced, the Holy Family found joy, not in worldly comforts, but in their deep union with God and with each other. Their home was a sanctuary of love, prayer, and mutual support, where God's presence was always felt. How fascinating it will be one day, in Heaven, if God reveals to us the details about the earthly and hidden life of the Holy Family. Though the angels witnessed their lives as they unfolded in time, we can hope and imagine that God, in His goodness, will share these mysteries with the saints, revealing the true beauty of the Holy Family's earthly life together. Their conversations, interactions, charity, prayer, fun, work, and all that made up their family life will be a source of eternal admiration and gratitude.

Reflect today on the Holy Family. Ask God to give you insight into their lives together. As you do, use any insights as a source of inspiration for your own life and relationships with those closest to you. Though we will all fall short of the charity that permeated the home of the Holy Family, we can work to imitate them by allowing God to increase our charity toward one another. Through daily prayer, acts of sacrifice, and a commitment to love one another, we can create a family life that reflects the holiness and unity of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph.

Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, Your family life was holy beyond imagination. In your daily interactions, Your love was manifest and inspiring to each other and to Your relatives and friends. Please draw me into Your family life and teach me to love those in my family so that we will become a stronger community of love. Jesus, I trust in You.