

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.

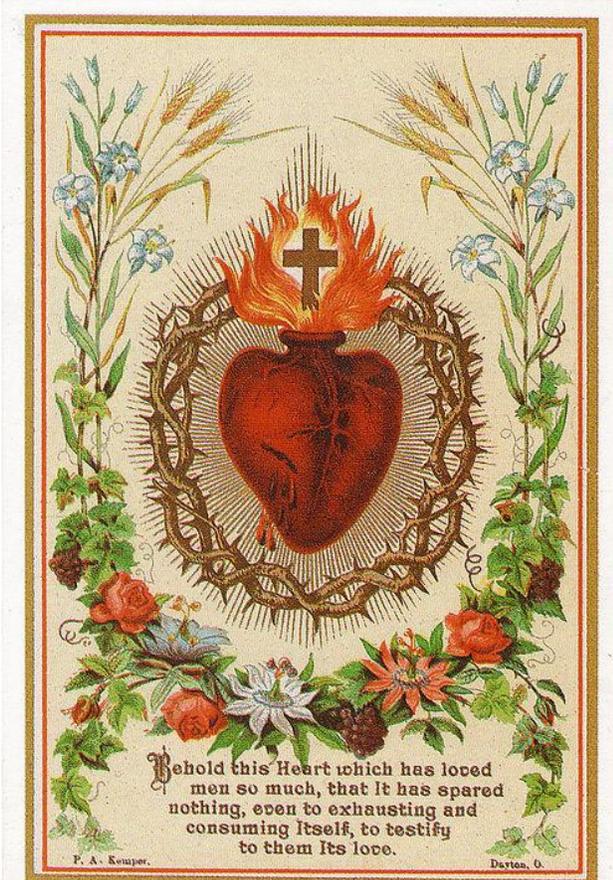
Confessions: Saturday 2:45 – 3:15 p.m.

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, JANUARY 4, 2026
THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

MASS INTENTIONS

Mon.	Jan.	5	NO MASS	
Tues.	Jan.	6	8:00 a.m.	<i>Mass at Holy Angels</i>
Wed.	Jan.	7	8:00 a.m.	<i>Mass at Holy Angels</i>
Thurs.	Jan.	8	8:00 a.m.	Margie Boyers
Fri.	Jan.	9	8:00 a.m.	Patrick & Cecilia Doherty
Sat.	Jan.	10	4:30 p.m.	<i>Mass at Holy Angels</i>
Sun.	Jan.	11	6:30 a.m.	Howard Lacey
			8:00 a.m.	Intentions of Danny Quade
			10:30 a.m.	<i>Mass at Holy Angels</i>

THANK YOU!: The Clergy and Staff are thankful for the generous parishioners who joyfully shared spiritual bouquets, Mass cards, greetings, and treats this Christmas. We appreciate your kindness and thoughtfulness. Merry Christmas and Blessings for the New 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.

VOTIVE CANDLE INTENTIONS: If you would like to have the votive candle on the Blessed Mother Altar, St. Joseph Altar or Sacred Heart Altar lit in memory or for the intention of a loved one, please contact the office to make arrangements. The intention for the candle is for the entire month and is listed in the bulletin. A donation of \$25 per candle is requested.

UNDECORATING THE CHURCH: We will be removing the Christmas decorations next, Sunday, January 11th, at 10 a.m. **Much help is needed.**

HOUSEHOLD BLESSING OF THE HOME AND FAMILY ON THE EPIPHANY: Lord God of heaven and earth, you revealed your only-begotten Son to every nation by the guidance of a star. Bless this house and all who inhabit it. Fill us with the light of Christ, that our concern for others may reflect your love. Through Christ our Lord. AMEN.

2026 \$100 A MONTH CLUB TICKETS: Sacred Heart 2026 \$100 A Month Club is now being formed. C.D. & Patty Raley are the raffle chairman. The winners for 2025 are:

January – Judy Gibson
February – Tess & Charlotte Hill
March – John Laychak
April – Emory Johnson
May – Rachel Lacey
June – Jean Lacey
July – David Cullins
August – Jeff Pilkerton
September – Rowan Guy
October – Jonathan Clarke
November – Patricia Reid
December – Jacob Pingleton

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://saintaloyiuschurch.org/qpr-question-persuade-refer-suicide-prevention-training> For questions contact Liz Tomaszkeski at liz.tomaszkeski@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 Cortinovis, 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.

SUNDAY REFLECTION

The Star of Bethlehem

When Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, in the days of King Herod, behold, magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying, "Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was greatly troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. Matthew 2:1-3

Why did God use a star to reveal the birth of the King of Kings to foreigners from the East? To Mary, Joseph, and even the shepherds, God sent an angel to announce the Good News. But to the Magi, He chose to use a medium they understood—a star.

The Magi, originally a priestly caste from Persia, were skilled in astrology, astronomy, dream interpretation, and other forms of wisdom and divination. The three Magi mentioned in Matthew's Gospel were clearly experts in astrology, carefully studying the night sky. On the night of Christ's birth, they made an extraordinary discovery: a new star had appeared in the sky. They knew it was a sign of great significance. According to their beliefs, the appearance of a new star heralded the birth of a new king.

This star was not just a celestial phenomenon; it symbolized the light of Christ breaking into the world, guiding all nations—Jew and Gentile alike—toward the Savior. Just as God drew humble Jewish shepherds to the newborn King, He also drew representatives of the Gentiles to adore Him, for Jesus came to save all of humanity.

The divine initiative to include the Gentiles was not a new concept but a fulfillment of a promise made to Abraham: "All the families of the earth will find blessing in you" (Genesis 12:3). The prophets and Psalms echo this theme, emphasizing that all nations will come to the Lord (see Isaiah 2:2-4; Psalm 67). In Jesus' public ministry, we see His outreach to the Gentiles, a mission that continued in the early Church, as recorded in the Acts of the Apostles. At the time of Jesus' birth, however, the Jewish emphasis was primarily on being the chosen people. The story of the Epiphany reveals God's universal call to holiness from the very beginning of Jesus' life, establishing that His mission was for all people, not just for Israel.

Because of this universal call to holiness, we who believe in Christ and live our Catholic faith must avoid becoming isolated or insular, creating a small, self-contained world. Instead, we are called to live our faith in a way that is welcoming to all and engaged with the broader world, reflecting the universal mission of the Church. Being Catholic is not merely a cultural heritage; it is the spiritual means of eternal salvation that everyone needs. The word "epiphany" means "manifestation," and Christ must be made manifest to all, becoming the King of every soul.

As we celebrate the Epiphany, be open to the ways God might want to use you to share the light of faith with those who are not yet faithful Catholics. We must be like the star of Bethlehem, drawing others to Christ in ways they can understand and accept. This is best accomplished when we place ourselves at God's service, ready to be used as instruments of His grace. God alone knows how to draw all people to Himself, and when we offer ourselves to His service, He will inspire us and use us to be that shining light, guiding others out of darkness and into His marvelous light.

My Lord and Light of the World, You desire to shine brightly for all to see, so that all may be drawn to You, the one and only Savior of all. Please use me as You will, to be like that star over Bethlehem. Give me wisdom, love, and courage to shine brightly, radiating Your light for all to see. Jesus, I trust in You.