

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.

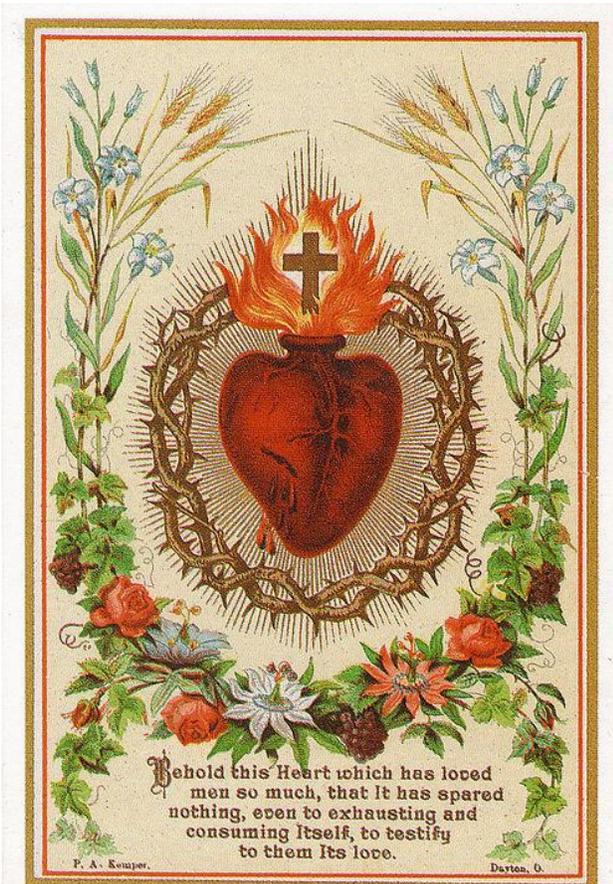
Confessions: Saturday 2:45 – 3:15 p.m.

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 11, 2026
THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

MASS INTENTIONS

Mon.	Jan.	12	NO MASS	
Tues.	Jan.	13	8:00 a.m.	<i>Mass at Holy Angels</i>
Wed.	Jan.	14	8:00 a.m.	<i>Mass at Holy Angels</i>
Thurs.	Jan.	15	8:00 a.m.	George Abell
Fri.	Jan.	16	8:00 a.m.	Int. Patricia Gray
Sat.	Jan.	17	4:30 p.m.	<i>Mass at Holy Angels</i>
Sun.	Jan.	18	6:30 a.m.	Vicki Hayden
			8:00 a.m.	Parishioners of S.H. & H.A.
			10:30 a.m.	<i>Mass at Holy Angels</i>

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

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.

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING: The next meeting of our Parish Council will be on January 15th. If you have any concerns, suggestions or ideas, please contact one of our council members so they can bring it up for discussion at the meeting. Our council members are; Joan Farr, Patrick Goode, Jon Spence, Rhonda Hill and Bill Gilligan.

SACRED HEART CEMETERY: Please remove all Christmas decorations from the cemetery by **January 31st**. Christmas decorations that are not removed by that date will be put in the bin beside the garage next to the rectory. Thank you for your cooperation.

MASS FOR LIFE IN DC: Before the National March for Life on Friday, January 23, in Washington, DC, join the Ancient Order of Hibernians (AOH) for their annual Mass for Life at 11:30 AM at St. Mary Mother of God Parish (5th & H Streets, NW). This year's Celebrant is the Most Reverend John Keehner, Bishop of Sioux City and past AOH National Chaplain. This year's Homilist is Fr. Kevin Fields, AOH State Chaplain. After the Mass, pilgrims may gather along the route on Constitution Avenue to join the March for Life.

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

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.

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!

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 Tomaszeski at liz.tomaszeski@gmail.com To learn more about the QPR Institute: <https://qprinstitute.com/about-qpr>

FATHER ANDREW WHITE SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE: FAW welcomes you to come learn more about the gift of Catholic education! Father Andrew White will be hosting an Open House on Tuesday, January 27 from 3-5 PM for prospective families. Please contact office@fatherandrewwhite.org to schedule an appointment. Please join us at our FAW Alumni and Parishioner Open House from 12:15 to 2:00 PM on January 25. Our students will be speaking at Mass beforehand to share their experience regarding Catholic education.

TURKEY SHOOT & OYSTER SCALD: The 7th District Optimist Club is holding a Turkey Shoot and Oyster Scald at the 7th District Optimist Park today Sunday Jan. 11th beginning at 12:00 Noon.

MOTHER CATHERINE ACADEMY: MCA is hosting Bingo on Saturday evenings. Doors open at 5:00 pm, Early Birds start at 6:30 pm, and regular games start at 7:00 pm.

REQUEST FOR INTERCESSORY PRAYER: Deceased: Daniel Quade. **Sick:** Henry Friess, Jr., Amanda Koenig, Leroy Russell, Bernard Cullins, Melvin Armstrong, Wendy Onstead, Nancy Cortinovic, Terry Abell Johnson, Paul Guy, Charles Beaver, Keith Polk, Joann Beavers, Barbara Hill, Robert & Diane Anderson, Buddy & Virgie Banagan, Barbara Lilly, Elaine Frederick and J.F. Williams.

JANUARY VOTIVE INTENTIONS

Blessed Mother Altar – In memory of Brenda E. Lacey. Given by Aggie Lacey.

St. Joseph Altar – In memory of Robert S. Bowles – Given by Aggie Lacey.

SUNDAY REFLECTION

An Indelible Spiritual Mark

Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan to be baptized by him. John tried to prevent him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and yet you are coming to me?" Jesus said to him in reply, "Allow it now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness." Then he allowed him. Matthew 3:13–15

John the Baptist was the last of the Old Testament prophets, entrusted with the mission to immediately prepare the way for the Messiah. Today's feast marks a pivotal transition from the Old Law to the New. Prior to Jesus' baptism, John's mission was in full motion. With Jesus' baptism, the mission of the Old Testament prophets is fulfilled, and the New Law of grace begins.

Why did Jesus enter the waters of baptism? He was sinless and had no need of repentance. Yet, in His divine wisdom, Jesus chose to be baptized to sanctify the waters, opening the gateway of grace for all who would follow. By entering the waters of baptism, Jesus set a precedent. Every Christian who enters the waters of baptism meets our Lord there, sharing in His life of grace.

As we reflect on Christ's baptism today, we are invited to consider our own. Most of us were baptized as infants and have no memory of the event. Others came to baptism later in life, fully aware of the grace they were receiving. Regardless of when it occurred, baptism's effects are profound and enduring. That singular moment of sanctification forever changed us, and its transformative power remains active within us.

Through baptism, Jesus meets us under the waters. When baptism is performed by full immersion, it powerfully symbolizes the reality of this encounter. We enter the waters of repentance, as John offered, but we emerge united with Christ. Just as the Father's voice declared at Jesus' baptism, "You are my beloved Son...", so too does the Father continually speak to us after our baptism, affirming our identity as His beloved children. The Holy Spirit descends upon us, and we are offered every gift of the Spirit, provided our hearts remain open.

Baptism occurs only once in our lives and imprints on our souls an "indelible spiritual mark (character)" (see *Catechism of the Catholic Church* #1272 and 1274). This mark configures us to Christ and signifies our permanent belonging to Him and His Church. It cannot be lost or removed, even by mortal sin. However, while this character endures forever, the state of sanctifying grace within our souls can be lost through mortal sin. In such cases, the grace of baptism is restored through the Sacrament of Reconciliation in which our souls are once again cleansed and brought back into full communion with God. Marked as members of Christ's Body, we are continually disposed to receive sanctifying grace through the other sacraments, as long as we remain in a state of grace. Baptism accomplishes this disposition, enabling us to participate fully in the life of grace that flows from Christ.

As we celebrate the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, reflect today on your own baptism. You are forever marked as a child of God. You encountered our Lord under the waters of baptism, were cleansed of all sin, and were filled with sanctifying grace. Though sin diminishes or even extinguishes that grace when it is mortal, the Sacrament of Reconciliation restores it, and the Eucharist and other sacraments increase it. Always return to your baptismal grace, seeking to live out your identity as God's son or daughter, as this sacred mark intends.

My sanctifying Lord, through the waters of baptism, I encountered You and received the abundant grace You bestowed upon me. Please help me to keep my soul free from sin and to live with the true dignity of a child of God. Thank You for meeting me under those waters. May I remain with You, growing ever closer to You by the ongoing gift of all the Sacraments. Jesus, I trust in You.