

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.

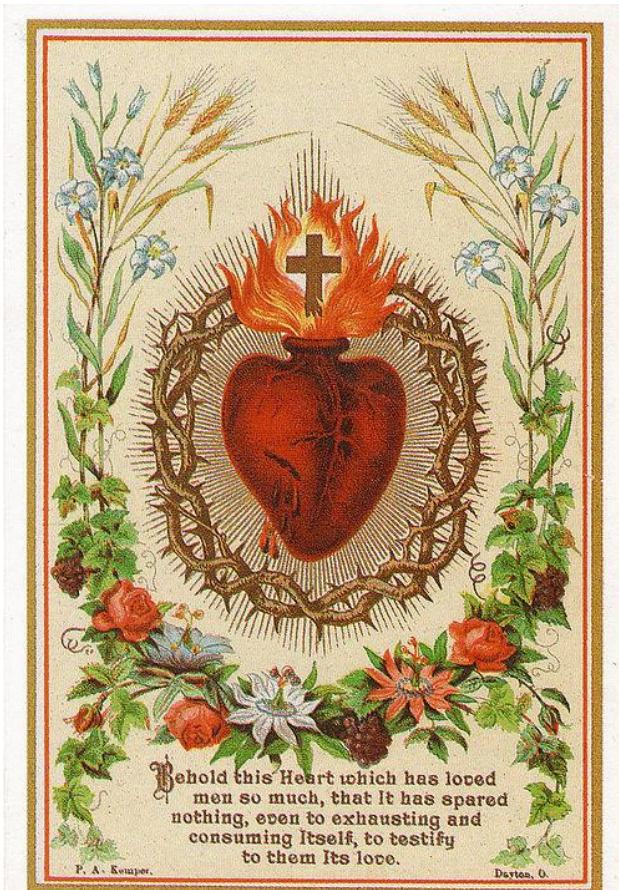
Confessions: Saturday 2:45 – 3:15 p.m.

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, MARCH 15, 2026
4th SUNDAY OF LENT (LAETARE SUNDAY)

MASS INTENTIONS

Mon.	Mar.	16	NO MASS	
Tues.	Mar.	17	8:00 a.m.	<i>Mass at Holy Angels</i>
Wed.	Mar.	18	8:00 a.m.	<i>Mass at Holy Angels</i>
Thurs.	Mar.	19	8:00 a.m.	Robert Anderson
Fri.	Mar.	20	8:00 a.m.	Holy Souls
			7:00 p.m.	Stations of the Cross
Sat.	Mar.	21	4:30 p.m.	<i>Mass at Holy Angels</i>
Sun.	Mar.	22	6:30 a.m.	Lucille Doepkens
			8:00 a.m.	Garner Morgan
			10:30 a.m.	<i>Mass at Holy Angels</i>

A SPECIAL THANK YOU! Monday was a most blessed evening with a Mass celebrated by Cardinal McElroy. The Cardinal's reception was a great success and he stated it was most enjoyable and the food was excellent. A big thank you to our parishioners for their help with the set-up, preparing the food and their generous donations of money, desserts and various dishes. Your generosity resulted in no expense to the Parish.

SECOND COLLECTION: The second collection this weekend is the annual Catholic Relief Collection. This collection gives aid to victims of war, natural disasters, violent persecution, and extreme poverty. Funds from this collection benefit vulnerable people here in the United States and overseas

TALK ON THE SHROUD OF TURIN: Sacred Heart Parish welcomes back Jimmy Naulty for a talk on the Shroud of Turin, **today, Sunday, March 15th, at 1 PM** at Sacred Heart Hall. All are welcome!

OUTDOOR STATIONS OF THE CROSS: Fr. Oberle will lead Stations of the Cross next Saturday, March 21st, at 12 Noon in Sacred Heart Cemetery. This liturgy is sponsored by the joint parish Sacred Heart Cemetery Committee.

LENTEN CONFESSIONS: The Sacrament of Penance will be offered by Fr. James Oberle and Fr. John Nguyen at Sacred Heart on Thursday, March 26th from 5:30-7:00pm and at Immaculate Conception on Wednesday, March 25th from 6:30-7:30pm.

EASTER FLOWER ENVELOPES: Please return your envelopes by March 22nd. Easter Flower envelopes are available on the tables at the entrance of the church.

FRIDAYS IN LENT: Stations of the Cross will be prayed on Lenten Fridays, at 3 PM at Holy Angels and 7 PM at Sacred Heart. On Fridays in Lent, Catholics from age 14 onwards are obligated to abstain from meat.

JOIN THE CHOIR: The Choir will practice this Lent on Mondays at 7 PM. The next practice will Monday, March 16th. New members are welcome!

ALTAR FLOWERS: The flowers on the Main Altar were given in memory of Vicki Hayden. The flowers on the Blessed Mother Altar were given in memory of Barbara Goode. The flowers on the St. Joseph Altar were given in memory of Margie Boyers. The flowers on the Sacred Heart Altar were given in memory of Anne Hall. The flowers were donated by Maggie Hammett.

HOLY ANGELS SACRED HEART VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL: We are excited to announce that our church will be hosting Illumination Station Vacation Bible School this summer! Registration is now open on our website, <https://myvbs.org/holy-angels-sacred-heart-vbs-2026>. Registration is required for all children, teens and adult volunteers. This year we will shine a light on who Jesus really is and show how he is the light of the world! For anyone wishing to assist who are unable to attend, please consider donating. Please reach out to the VBS Director for more information, Amy Williams 301-904-5416 or by email at miaandkyle11@gmail.com. We look forward to seeing your children this summer!

OPTIMIST FISH DINNERS: 7th District Optimist Club Drive-Thru Fish Dinner takes place Lenten Fridays, 5-7 PM, at 21804 Colton Point Road in Avenue. March 20th dinner options include beer battered Atlantic cod and buttermilk fried shrimp or a combo platter. Dinner also includes steak fries, coleslaw, tartar sauce, and roll. \$22 cash or credit. Steamed Shrimp also available: \$11 for half-pound or \$19 for full-pound. Proceeds to benefit Optimist Club Youth Outreach Programs.

HOLY ANGELS DRIVE-THRU SEAFOOD DINNER: Holy Angels Church will host their annual Drive-Thru Seafood Dinner on Sunday, March 22nd, from 11:00 a.m. until sold out. The menu includes fried oysters, steamed spiced shrimp, fried chicken, parsley potatoes, green beans, coleslaw, beets, and dinner roll. The cost is \$30 per dinner. There will be a delicious Cake Table with home-baked treats. For more information, call (301) 769-3332 or e-mail holy01angels@aol.com.

KIDS BINGO: The Seventh District VFD Auxiliary will be having a Kids Bingo Sunday, March 22nd at the Seventh District Firehouse, 21660 Colton Point Rd, Avenue, MD. Doors open at 12.00 PM with Bingo starting at 1:00 PM. Admission will be \$10.00 and includes 10 regular games, 4 specials and a door prize ticket. Refreshments will be on sale. All children must be accompanied by an adult. Only kids play bingo. Bingo prizes will be various gift cards and other items for door prizes. Reservations recommended but not required. For information or to make reservations text or call Nicki at 240-298-5026 or email at nhammett12@gmail.com. Check out the Auxiliary's Facebook page at Seventh District Volunteer Fire Department Auxiliary for events information. Messages can also be left on page with any questions for bingo or other events. Thanks in advance for your support.

REQUEST FOR INTERCESSORY PRAYER: **Deceased:** Robert Trossbach, Sr. **Sick:** Wendy Buckler, Henry Friess, Jr., Amanda Koenig, Heather Hubenschmidt, Leroy Russell, Nancy Cortinovic, Bernard Cullins, Melvin Armstrong, Wendy Onstead, Terry Abell Johnson, Paul Guy, Keith Polk, Joann Beavers, Barbara Hill, Diane Anderson, Buddy & Virgie Banagan, Barbara Lilly and Elaine Frederick.

MARCH VOTIVE INTENTIONS

Blessed Mother Altar – In memory of Frankie Bowles. Given by Mary Jane Bowles.

St. Joseph Altar – In memory of Frankie Bowles. Given by Mary Jane Bowles.

Sacred Heart Altar – In memory of Frankie Bowles. Given by Mary Jane Bowles.

SUNDAY REFLECTION

Spiritual Sight Restored

As Jesus passed by he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" Jesus answered, "Neither he nor his parents sinned; it is so that the works of God might be made visible through him." [John 9:1-3](#)

Imagine being blind throughout your life and then suddenly being healed. All of the sounds you had heard from childhood, all that you had touched, tasted, or smelled suddenly took on new form within your imagination as these images registered with sight for the first time. Colors suddenly made sense. Large items, such as trees that you had only heard in the wind and touched with your hands, could be seen from a distance, glimmering in the sunlight. Your mind suddenly perceived in a new way the utensils, clothing, and other items you used daily. Just as the blind man was filled with awe at receiving his sight, so too is the soul overwhelmed when freed from the blindness of sin and brought into the light of God's grace.

The healed blind man was given a gift that those who can see from birth are not. Perceiving and understanding the physical world only through four of his senses, and then adding the powerful fifth sense of sight later in life, provided immediate wonder and awe, filling him with profound gratitude for something most of us take for granted.

Think of a person who lives a sinful life for many years and understands life only through the distortions of sin and selfishness. Once set free from sin, the person's spiritual eyes are opened. Those who experience such a conversion are given a blessing that those who have been faithful throughout their lives do not receive in the same way. They understand the contrast between spiritual blindness and sight, and the newfound freedom they receive after conversion provides a greater understanding of the gift of God's grace and its transforming effects. They will never forget the weight of bondage once caused by their sin.

One reason God permitted this man to be born blind and live that way into adulthood was to illustrate the contrast between spiritual darkness and light. This is part of what Jesus means when He says this man was born blind "so that the works of God might be made visible through him." The miracle not only illustrated Jesus' divine power but also symbolized the much deeper spiritual healing He offers to all. Just as the blind man received physical sight, we are offered the gift of spiritual sight through grace.

We are born with poor spiritual sight. Our fallen human nature, which suffers from concupiscence, tends toward selfishness and sin. Although capable of love and affection, a child is prone to selfishness, anger, emotional outbursts, and other "childish" behavior. Over time, with the guidance of good mentors, children begin to understand the value of greater patience and selfless acts of love, kindness, and generosity. Those who are not well-formed as adolescents or who choose to rebel selfishly in their later years never gain a clearer spiritual sight. The world around them remains blurry, and divine wisdom never penetrates their eyes of faith.

The story of the man born blind is an opportunity for each of us to examine how clearly we perceive our lives and the world around us. Just as the man was healed, we need healing from the blindness caused by our fallen nature. God's grace restores our spiritual sight, allowing His light to illuminate all we encounter in life.

Reflect today on your own need to see more clearly. We need our spiritual sight restored and sharpened if we are to perceive ourselves and our world with divine Wisdom. It takes humility to admit we have poor spiritual sight, and profound humility to admit if we are spiritually blinded by sin. Learn from the wonder and awe that this healed blind man experienced, and know that our Lord wants us to have clearer spiritual vision.

My healing Lord, because of my fallen human nature and my sin, I often fail to see the light of truth with clarity. Please heal me, as You healed this blind man, so that I will understand my life and Your will more clearly and be filled with wonder and awe at the reception of that gift. Jesus, I trust in You.