

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.

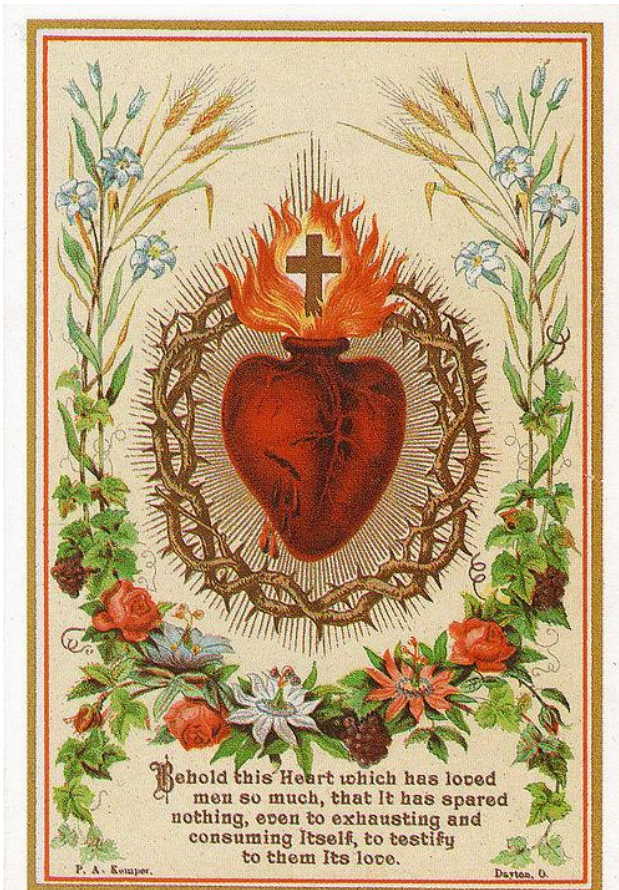
Confessions: Saturday 2:45 – 3:15 p.m.

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 22, 2026
5th SUNDAY OF LENT

MASS INTENTIONS

Mon.	Mar.	23	NO MASS
Tues.	Mar.	24	8:00 a.m. <i>Mass at Holy Angels</i>
Wed.	Mar.	25	8:00 a.m. <i>Mass at Holy Angels</i>
Thurs.	Mar.	26	8:00 a.m. James Spence
Fri.	Mar.	27	8:00 a.m. George Abell
			7:00 p.m. Stations of the Cross
Sat.	Mar.	28	4:30 p.m. <i>Mass at Holy Angels</i>
Sun.	Mar.	29	6:30 a.m. Parishioners of S.H. & H.A.
			8:00 a.m. Jackson Hall
			10:30 a.m. <i>Mass at Holy Angels</i>

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. Thank you.

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 23rd. New members are welcome!

DIVINE MERCY NOVENA: The novena begins on Good Friday, April 3rd, and concludes on the Second Sunday of Easter, April 12th. Brochures with the Novena Prayers will be available at the entrance of the church next weekend.

SACRED HEART CHURCH SACRED PASCHAL TRIDUUM & EASTER SUNDAY:

Holy Thursday (April 2) - Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper - 7 PM Mass

Good Friday (April 3) - Liturgy of the Lord's Passion - 7 PM Liturgy

Easter Vigil (April 4) - 8 PM Mass.

Easter Sunday (April 5) - 6:30 AM Mass & 8 AM Mass

COFFEE AND DOUGHNUTS: Please join us after Mass next weekend for coffee and doughnuts to thank Fr. Oberle for his time here at Sacred Heart. We greatly appreciate his coming out of retirement to fill in here at Sacred Heart through Easter. If you are able to help in any way, please contact Isabel Williams.

WHY WE VEIL THE CROSS AND STATUES: The veiling of crosses and images is a fasting from sacred depictions which represent the paschal glory of our salvation. Just as the Lenten fast concludes with the Paschal feast, so too, our fasting from the cross culminates in an adoration of the holy wood on which the sacrifice of Calvary was offered for our sins. Likewise, a fasting from the glorious images of the mysteries of faith and the saints in glory, culminates on the Easter night with a renewed appreciation of the glorious victory won by Christ, risen from the tomb to win for us eternal life.

OUTDOOR STATIONS OF THE CROSS: Rev. Andrew E. Royals will lead the devotion of the Way of the Cross in the St. Mary's Queen of Peace Cemetery located at 38888 Doctor Johnson Road in Helen/Mechanicsville behind Mother Catherine Academy. The devotional will begin at 12:00 p.m. on Good Friday, April 3rd, and all are welcome to participate. For more information or directions, please call the Catholic Cemeteries of Southern MD Regional Office at (301) 475-5005 or (301) 932-1766, or email us at gop1@ccaw.org.

MAY ALTARS: May is the month dedicated to our Blessed Mother. We will once again honor Her by our display of May Altars in Sacred Heart Hall. Everyone is welcome to join us and display a Blessed Mother Altar. More information will follow regarding set up dates and times.

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 27th dinner option is combo platter only which includes beer battered Atlantic cod, buttermilk fried shrimp, steak fries, coleslaw, tartar sauce, and roll. \$22 cash or credit. 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 today, 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.

REQUEST FOR INTERCESSORY PRAYER: Sick: Wendy Buckler, Henry Friess, Jr., Amanda Koenig, Heather Hubenschmidt, Leroy Russell, Nancy Cortinavis, 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

Jesus' Human and Divine Love

When Mary came to where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet and said to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." When Jesus saw her weeping and the Jews who had come with her weeping, he became perturbed and deeply troubled, and said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Sir, come and see." And Jesus wept. John 11:32–35

Jesus' humanity shines clearly in today's Gospel. In the face of Lazarus' death, Jesus is deeply moved by the grief around Him. The Gospel says He "became deeply distressed and troubled" and eventually "wept." The Greek word for "deeply distressed," *embrimaomai*, suggests a strong emotional disturbance, even indignation or anger. It could be translated as "He snorted in spirit," indicating an involuntary, visceral response from the depth of His soul. Some commentators suggest Jesus' anger wasn't directed at the people weeping but at the reality of death itself, caused by sin. As God, Jesus knew death was never part of the Father's original plan for humanity. From a divine perspective, He saw death as a consequence of sin. From this point of view, death provoked righteous indignation and deeply troubled His human heart.

As the passage continues, Jesus' humanity is powerfully portrayed in the shortest verse in the Bible: "And Jesus wept." Why did He weep? Saint Paul reminds us in Hebrews: "For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who has similarly been tested in every way, yet without sin" (Hebrews 4:15). Jesus' tears show us that the Holy Trinity knows human pain firsthand. The Incarnate Son allowed Himself to experience sorrow, and the Father and the Holy Spirit shared in this sorrow through Him.

It's important to note that Jesus' sorrow was different from the weeping of Lazarus' sisters and the others present. Jesus' weeping uses the Greek word *edakrysen*, which means "to shed tears" or "weep silently." His tears were personal, controlled, intimate, heartfelt, and full of divine compassion. In contrast, the weeping of the others is described by the Greek word *klaió*, meaning loud wailing, a typical expression of communal and ritualistic mourning at the time. Jesus' grief was neither ritualistic nor excessive; it was intimate and heartfelt, born from personal sorrow and divine compassion.

We must never forget Jesus' deep compassion, empathy, and sorrow. His human heart feels the same emotions we do—He grieves when we grieve, shares in our pain, and is moved by the hold sin has on us. After feeling these emotions at Lazarus' death, Jesus stood outside the tomb and "cried out in a loud voice, 'Lazarus, come out!'" (John 11:43). We can imagine the passion behind His command. In our lives, when we are trapped in sin or burdened by human weakness, we must hear Jesus calling us to freedom with the same divine authority and human passion.

Reflect today on Jesus' humanity and how He perfectly understands everything we experience. His deep empathy for our suffering and His joy when we rise with His grace show us how intimately He knows us. God became one of us in every way, sharing in our human condition—though without sin—so that we might share in His divinity. Ponder His humanity and let His closeness draw you to Him, giving you a share in His divine life.

Most compassionate Lord, You experienced human nature in its fullness. Though You never sinned, You allowed Yourself to feel the effects of our sin and suffering, filling them with Your divine compassion. Help me to always remember Your humanity, knowing that through it, I come to share in Your divinity. Jesus, I trust in You.