

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.

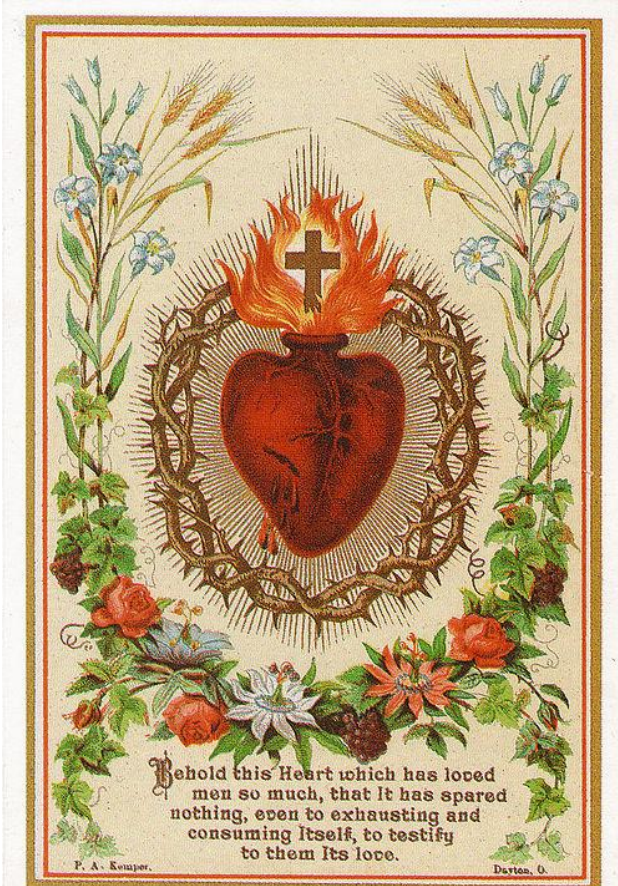
Confessions: Saturday 2:45 – 3:15 p.m.

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 29, 2026
6th SUNDAY OF LENT – PALM SUNDAY

MASS INTENTIONS

Mon.	Mar.	30	NO MASS	
Tues.	Mar.	31	8:00 a.m.	<i>Mass at Holy Angels</i>
Wed.	Apr.	1	8:00 a.m.	<i>Mass at Holy Angels</i>
Thurs.	Apr.	2	7:00 p.m.	Vocations
Fri.	Apr.	3	7:00 p.m.	Good Friday Liturgy
Sat.	Apr.	4	8:00 p.m.	Int. of Flower Donors
Sun.	Apr.	5	6:30 a.m.	Parishioners of Sacred Heart
			8:00 a.m.	Int. Lou & Rose Marie Billard
			10:30 a.m.	<i>Mass at Holy Angels</i>

FASTING & ABSTINENCE ON GOOD FRIDAY: Catholics from age 18 until age 59 are obligated to fast on Good Friday. When fasting, a person is permitted to eat one full meal, as well as two smaller meals that together are not equal to a full meal. Catholics from age 14 onwards are obligated to abstain from meat on Good Friday.

PONTIFICAL GOOD FRIDAY COLLECTION FOR THE HOLY LAND: This universal collection commissioned by Pope Francis collects funds for support of the Holy Places, and for those pastoral, charitable, educational and social works which the Church supports in the Holy Land for the welfare of their Christian brethren and of the local communities.

CONFESSIONS: There will be **NO** Confessions on Holy Saturday.

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 are available at the entrance of the church.

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 **today** 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.

PARISH OFFICE SCHEDULE: The Parish Office will only be open this week from Monday, March 30th through Wednesday, April 1st. After a recess for the Triduum and Easter, the Parish Office will re-open on Tuesday, April 7th.

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 3, 2026, 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.

HOUSEHOLD BLESSING FOR PLACING OF PALM BRANCHES IN THE HOME: Blessed are you, God of Israel, so rich in love and mercy. Let these branches ever remind us of Christ's triumph. May we who bear them rejoice in his Cross and sing your praise forever and ever. AMEN

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!

\$100 A MONTH CLUB WINNER: The \$100 A Month Club winner for March is Agnes Tyer.

REQUEST FOR INTERCESSORY PRAYER: Sick: Jeff Pilkerton, Patsy Quade, 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.

THANK YOU AND A “HEADS UP”

I want to express my sincere thanks for all of you who have made my time at Sacred Heart so enjoyable. Special thank you to Charlotte and Deacon Joe. Both have been an invaluable resource and have always provided sage advice.

The “Heads Up”

On one hand the parish finances are in good shape. You have no debts and have money in the bank. Many pastors would rejoice. If you go below the superficial, there are many red flags.

- a. Currently the monthly collection just meets expenses. However, at this time you are not paying my health insurance or car insurance. My religious community is paying those costs. Also, my monthly stipend is below what you will pay in the future. That is my contribution. With the added costs you may have to tap savings each month to cover costs.
- b. There is a significant amount of deferred maintenance. The windows in the rectory are 47 years old. This is way beyond normal. This winter on several occasions there was ice on the inside of the window. Estimated cost to replace is 15 to 20 thousand.

The tile under the church pews is peeling. This needs replacement. With 25-year vinyl plank the cost would be 15 thousand.

There is some question about the boiler in the Church. It has many “band aids” and will soon need replacement. Estimated cost 50 thousand.

None of these needs to be done tomorrow. But as the TV commercial stated: You can pay me now or you can pay me later.

- c. The cemetery fund is underfunded. We should have \$1 million to cover the costs in the cemetery when full. I have recommended a columbarium as a means to extend the life of the cemetery. The Archdiocese is in favor of this as is the cemetery committee.
- d. Lastly, but perhaps most importantly, the parish has lost about \$200,000 over the past 6 to 8 years. The reason was that investments in CD's, etc. were earning about .2%. Thus, we received about \$1,100 in interest as opposed to about \$28,000 per year for the past number of years. Don't look to blame someone! All of us are responsible. With the cemetery committee and the finance committee, we have moved our funds from the local banks to an investment firm. We will have to monitor these more closely in the future.

What to take from all of this:

Lest you think that we are rich because we have this extra interest income, you need to acknowledge that we are losing \$15,000 because we no longer have the Big Money Raffle. Also, because we are an aging community we will no longer have volunteers for many projects that we will need to pay for. Thus, at best, this money keeps us level.

At this point the parish has no financial commitments beyond what is in the budget. Complete the deferred maintenance that is in your best interest. However, do not spend any money that is not necessary. If you stay focused and avoid the unnecessary you will be fine.