

SACRED HEART CHURCH

Bushwood, Maryland – Founded 1755

Rev. Anthony Lickteig, Administrator

Charlotte Morgan, Parish Secretary

Margaret Williams, Organist
William Gilligan, Assistant Organist

Tammy Pilkerton, Music & Choir Director
Sarah Pingleton, Choir Director

Rectory Phone: 301-769-3100

Emergency Phone: 301-904-7750

Parish Website: www.sacredheartbushwood.org

Parish Email: sacredheart.bushwood.md@adwparish.org

Rectory Office Hours: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, & Friday 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Masses: Tuesday & Friday 7:00 a.m., Sunday 6:30 and 8:00 a.m.

Eucharistic Adoration: After the Tuesday 7 a.m. Mass

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

Baptisms: By appointment.

Weddings: Six months advance notice.

CCD Classes: Sunday, 9:05 a.m., Holy Angels Sacred Heart School.

MASS INTENTIONS

Mon.	Dec.	7	Mass at Holy Angels – 7:30 a.m.	
Mon.	Dec.	7	7:00 p.m.	Leonard & Barbara Lacey
Tues.	Dec.	8	7:00 a.m.	Walter & Ada Lacey
Wed.	Dec.	9	Mass at Holy Angels – 7:30 a.m.	
Thurs.	Dec.	10	NO MASS	
Fri.	Dec.	11	7:00 a.m.	John William Hall, Jr.
Sun.	Dec.	13	6:30 a.m.	Parishioners of Sacred Heart & Holy Angels
			8:00 a.m.	Loretta Somerville

Dear Sacred Heart Family,

This Tuesday, December 8th, two great celebrations are taking place. First, we celebrate the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception. This feast day celebrates how Mary, through God's grace, was preserved from Original Sin at the very moment of her conception. It was because of the merits of Christ that this was able to occur, because no one can have that debt of original sin removed or excluded without Christ's actions and the grace of God. At Lourdes, France in 1858 Mary herself confirmed this as her title during one of her 18 apparitions, telling Bernadette "I am the Immaculate Conception." Mary, under the title the Immaculate Conception, was declared to be the patroness of the United States by the American bishops in 1846. So just as the Sacred Heart is the patron of our parish, Mary, the Immaculate Conception, is the patroness of our country. Because this is such an important feast day, Catholics are obliged to attend Mass (just like any Sunday), thanking God for this wonderful blessing and honoring Mary our Mother. An extended Mass schedule will be offered on December 8th – see below for details.

On December 8th, Pope Francis also inaugurates the Holy Year of Mercy. During a Holy Year, God grants us special graces - the grace for this Holy Year is Mercy. The Pope tells us that "*Mercy is the bridge that connects God and man, opening our hearts to the hope of being loved forever despite our sinfulness. At times we are called to gaze even more attentively on mercy so that we may become a more effective sign of the Father's action in our lives.*" The Holy Year of Mercy is just such a time to receive the Father's mercy in a new way so that we can be transformed and become better witnesses in the world of the mercy of God.

Through God's grace, Mary was born immaculate to prepare her to carry Jesus, the Son of God. We, too, are called to prepare ourselves to receive God in a new way this Christmas and during this Holy Year. Our souls can become immaculate again by receiving God's forgiveness in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. I will be offering this sacrament the next three Monday evenings at Sacred Heart – see below for more details.

This week, I pray that the graces of the Immaculate Conception and the Holy Year of Mercy may be planted deep in our hearts and grow through God's grace into the fruit of conversion and deeper union with Jesus Christ.

May God bless you,
Fr. Anthony Lickteig

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION: Tuesday, December 8th is the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, and is a Holy Day of Obligation. The Vigil Mass on December 7th will be offered at Sacred Heart at 7:00 p.m. and on December 8th at 7:00 a.m.

SECOND COLLECTION: The second collection next weekend is the annual collection for the Retired Religious.

CONFESSION FOR CHRISTMAS: To prepare for the great feast of Christmas, the Sacrament of Reconciliation will be offered at Sacred Heart church on Mondays in Advent. On Monday, December 7th and Monday, December 14th, confession will be offered from 7:30 – 8:30 p.m. A special penance service with Fr. Lickteig and a guest priest will be offered on Monday, December 21st from 7:00 – 8:00 p.m. Don't worry if it has been a long time – the love of God the Father awaits you!

ALTAR SERVER TRAINING: If you are a boy in the 3rd grade or older who would like to be an altar server at Sacred Heart, join us for our next practices on December 7th at 6:00 p.m. at Sacred Heart church. Other practices will take place at 6:00 p.m. on December 15th. Please contact Fr. Lickteig if you have any questions.

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS: Please return your Christmas flower envelopes by **Sunday, December 13th**. The Christmas Midnight Mass will be offered for all those listed on the flower offering envelopes.

ADVENT GIFT TREE: Please return the gift tags with the un-wrapped gifts to Sacred Heart by **December 13th**. Please make sure that the non-monetary gifts for the Seniors' Tree are in boxes. Thank you.

ADVENT CELEBRATION: Sacred Heart will host an Advent Celebration on Sunday, Dec. 6th, from 12 noon until 3:00 pm at Sacred Heart Hall. Bring your children to make Advent wreaths and Christmas cookies, and to listen to Christmas stories. There will be other fun activities too! The event is open to parishioners of both Sacred Heart and Holy Angels and is for families with children. Families with high school aged students are also welcome. All materials will be provided, and a donation of \$10 is suggested to help defray costs.

WARM PROGRAM MEETINGS: Sacred Heart and Holy Angels Parishes will host participants of the WARM program from January 31 - February 7, 2016. The next coordinating meeting will be at Holy Angels Sacred Heart School on December 14th at 7:00 p.m.

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING: On Friday, December 11th, a community Christmas party and tree lighting will be held at the 7th District firehouse. Activities will begin at 5 p.m. with a visit from Santa. Refreshments will be served.

OUR LADY OF THE WAYSIDE CHURCH BREAKFAST WITH SANTA: Our Lady of the Wayside Church will hold a breakfast with Santa on Sunday, December 13th from 8 a.m. – Noon. The menu includes pancakes, bacon, sausage, scrambled eggs, French toast, home fries, orange juice and coffee. The cost is adults \$10, children 5-12 \$6 and children under 5 are free. Have your picture taken with Santa for \$5.

BREAKFAST WITH SANTA: The 7th district VFD Auxiliary will be having breakfast with Santa on Sunday December 13th from 9 a.m. until noon. Menu will include pancakes, scrambled eggs, bacon, sausage, hash browns, baked apple dessert, coffee, juice, milk and tea. The cost is \$10 for adults, \$9 for seniors, children 4 to 12 \$3 and 3 and under free.

SENIORS' CHRISTMAS PARTY: The Seventh District Optimist Club will be sponsoring their Annual Seniors' Christmas Party Sunday, December 20th, beginning at 12 noon at Holy Angels Hall in Avenue.

CHRISTMAS DINNER: The St. Vincent de Paul Society of St. Aloysius Church will be providing Christmas dinner on Christmas Day from 2 – 6 p.m. at Father Andrew White School in Leonardtown for those less fortunate in our community.

REQUEST FOR INTERCESSORY PRAYER: Deceased: Florence Buckler **Sick:** Walter Russell, Elizabeth Graves, Virgie Banagan, Eleanor Clarkson, Bill Finegan, Trudy Quade, Carroll Farrell, Miles Mattingly, Carol Ann Hall, Kyle Tyer, Roy Lassiter, Ginny Guy, Ernest Armstrong, Aloysius Butler, Madeline Hutchins, Joseph Freddie Morgan, Harrison Robrecht, Bert Dean, Bernie Quade, Melanie Gibson, Elaine Frederick, Jr. Farrell, Nancy Rueckert & Myrtle Thompson.

DECEMBER VOTIVE CANDLE INTENTIONS

Blessed Mother Altar – Given by Satch & Carol Ann Hall in memory of Joe Farr & Bernie Doepkens.

St. Joseph Altar – Given by Satch & Carol Ann Hall in memory of Mr. & Mrs. Frank Hall.

Sacred Heart Altar – Given by Ricky & Joan Farr for the intentions of Myrtle Thompson.