

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.	28	No Mass	
Tues.	Dec.	29	No Mass	
Wed.	Dec.	30	No Mass	
Thurs.	Dec.	31	4:30 p.m.	Annie Sandberg
Fri.	Jan.	1	9:00 a.m.	Carroll & Gertrude Cusic
Sun.	Dec.	3	6:30 a.m.	Stephen M. Lacey, Sr.
			8:00 a.m.	Thomas E. Hill

Dear Sacred Heart Family,

Merry Christmas! Yes, we celebrated the Nativity of Our Lord on December 25th, but the Christmas Season has just begun! The Church extends the celebration of this wonderful event for 8 days during the Octave of Christmas until January 1st. By celebrating Christmas every day for 8 days, the Church imitates how the Israelites celebrated their major feast days in the Old Testament over eight days. The mystery and joy of the event of Jesus' birth is meant to be savored and celebrated over multiple days - there is too much to take in over just one day. The octave ends with the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God on January 1st, a Holy Day of Obligation. But the Christmas Season extends even after that, through Epiphany on January 6th until the Baptism of the Lord on January 10th. After Christmas Day there is sometimes a letdown as it appears that Christmas is "over". But as Christians and Catholics, we know God wants to continue to shower his joy upon us in the days after December 25th.

On a related note, there are 12 days between Christmas Day and Epiphany, January 6th. So the famous "Twelve Days of Christmas" was composed in England to not only mark these days, but also to teach the Catholic faith to children as English Catholics were not allowed to practice their faith openly from 1558 until 1829. As you may know, each of the days has a hidden meaning. The "True Love" is Jesus Christ, because truly Love was born on Christmas Day. And each of the 12 days symbolize the following:

- The partridge in the pear tree represents Jesus because a partridge is willing to sacrifice its life if necessary to protect its young by feigning injury to draw away predators.
- The two turtle doves were the Old and New Testaments
- The three French hens stood for faith, hope, and love.
- The four calling birds were the four gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.
- The five golden rings represented the first five books of the Old Testament, which describe man's fall into sin and the great love of God in sending a Savior.
- The six geese a-laying stood for the six days of creation.
- Seven swans a-swimming represented the sevenfold gifts of the Holy Spirit: wisdom, understanding, counsel, knowledge, fortitude, piety, and fear of the Lord (wonder).
- The eight maids a-milking were the eight beatitudes.

- Nine ladies dancing were the nine fruits of the Holy Spirit-----Charity, Joy, Peace, Patience [Forbearance], Goodness [Kindness], Mildness, Fidelity, Modesty, Continency [Chastity].
- The ten lords a-leaping were the Ten Commandments.
- The eleven pipers piping stood for the eleven faithful Apostles.
- The twelve drummers drumming symbolized the twelve points of belief in The Apostles' Creed.

May the joy of the Christ Child accompany you and your family during the whole Christmas Season.

May God bless you,
Fr. Anthony Lickteig

WEEKDAY MASS SCHEDULE: Mass on Tuesday, **December 29th** at 7:00 a.m. at Sacred Heart and Monday and Wednesday at Holy Angels will be cancelled as Fr. Lickteig will be visiting his family in Texas. St. Joseph's in Morganza will have Mass at 8:00 a.m. on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. Thank you for understanding!

NEW YEAR'S MASS SCHEDULE: Friday, January 1st, New Year's Day, is the Feast of Mary, the Mother of God, is a holy day of obligation. Masses will be celebrated on Thursday, December 31st, at 4:30 p.m. and on Friday, January 1st, at 9 a.m.

SECOND COLLECTION: The second collection next weekend is our monthly School Support collection.

PARISH OFFICE HOURS: The parish office will be closed on Friday, January 1st, and will reopen on Monday, January 4th at 9 a.m.

NEW YEAR'S EVE DANCE: Immaculate Conception Church in Mechanicsville will be holding a New Year's Eve Dance on Thursday, December 31st starting at 8 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. in the parish hall. Tickets are \$30 a person and \$60 per couple. Music will be provided by Mean Gene and there will be a 50/50 Raffle with door prizes. Tickets can be purchased by calling 301-884-0742 or emailing Monica & Paul at mcerkez@md.metrocast.net. Tickets will be available at the door.

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 Sacred Heart Hall on January 11th at 7:00 p.m.

REQUEST FOR INTERCESSORY PRAYER: 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.

JOY AND PEACE IN THE NEW YEAR!