

# Sacred Heart Catholic Church

PA Charitable Trust

337 Center Street – St. Marys, PA 15857

Sacred Heart Parish Office: 814-834-7861 Fax: 814-834-1376 • Sacred Heart Parish Center: 814- 834-4017

e-mail: [sacredheartparish@windstream.net](mailto:sacredheartparish@windstream.net) • Website: [www.sacredheartparish.us](http://www.sacredheartparish.us)

Parish Office Hours: 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM



**NO** New Years Eve Mass Friday, Dec., 31, 2021

**New Years Day** ~ Saturday, Jan., 1, 2022  
Morning Mass at 9:00 a.m.

**Mass for Saturday Evening**, Jan., 1, 2022 ~  
Vigil of the Epiphany 4:00 p.m.

**Masses for Sunday**, Jan., 2, 2022 ~  
Epiphany Sunday 7:00, 9:00 & 11:00 a.m.

**December 25(S): Nativity of Our Lord**  
4:00 p.m. **NO MASS**

**December 26: Holy Family**  
7:00 a.m. For Sacred Heart Parishioners  
9:00 a.m. L/D of Herman & Catherine Lenze Family

11:00 a.m. L/D of Lang, Dell'Aere & Beck Families

**December 27(M): St. John, Apostle, Evangelist**  
6:15 a.m. †† Frank & Rose Mary Kneidel

**December 28(T): The Holy Innocents, Martyrs**  
6:15 a.m. †† Joseph & Angela (An.) Lynch

**December 29(W): Fifth Day in the Octave of Christmas**  
6:15 a.m. L/D of Veronica M. Jeselnick Family

**December 30(Th): Sixth Day in the Octave of Christmas**  
6:15 a.m. † Andrew Gillen (An.)

**December 31(F): Seventh Day in the Octave of Christmas**  
6:15 a.m. L/D of Bob & Mary Ann Gregory Family

**January 01(S): Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God (Octave Day of Christmas)**  
9:00 a.m. † Lou Ann Nellis  
4:00 p.m. For Sacred Heart Parishioners

**January 02: Epiphany**  
7:00 a.m. L/D of Bob & Mary Ann Gregory Family

9:00 a.m. L/D of Walter & Ellen Donahey Family

11:00 a.m. L/D of Donahue Family



The week of December 26, 2021 the Angel Lamps in the Sanctuary burn for the following intentions:  
† **Robert Hasselman**  
L/D of Frank & Rose Mary Kneidel Family

### A FAMILY PERSPECTIVE

Today's gospel contains this truth about parenting: "but his parents did not know." One of the reasons parenting is so difficult is because our children don't tell us everything. If the Holy Family had trouble with their teenager, why do we think it will be easier for us?

### PRE-CANA SESSIONS

<b>Date:</b>	<b>Time:</b>	<b>Place:</b>
January 29, 2022	8:00 a.m. to 5:15 p.m.	Sacred Heart 814-834-7861



### THANK YOU

For the donation for Buildings & Grounds:  
In memory of **Kenneth Bauer**: \$50

For the donation for the Trust Fund  
In memory of **William Erich**: \$10

For the donation for the SHEEP Fund  
In memory of **William Erich**: \$20

For the donations for the Church  
In memory of **Kenneth Bauer**: \$20, \$25, \$25, \$30, \$50  
In memory of **Mary Dagustine**: \$25  
In memory of **William Erich**: \$10, \$20, \$20, \$25, \$25  
In memory of **Margaret Evers**: \$40  
In memory of **Craig Newton**: \$30, \$30  
In memory of **Douglas Price**: \$10

### ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

**PLEASE NOTE!** Adoration will take place Friday, December 31, 2021 with closing at **2:30 p.m.**

**PLEASE PRAY** for the repose of the souls of all the faithful departed. May God grant them eternal rest and comfort all those who mourn them.

**PRAYER LIST** - Let us remember all the sick especially Chrissy Aikens, Sharon Boylan, Alice Feldbauer, Michael Gary, Don Geci, Louise Georgevich, Deacon Bill Gibson, Kathleen Glatfelter, Beth Gornati, Beula Kestler, Tom Nellis Jr., Tammy Pearsall, Asher Quinn, John Rettger, Kathleen (Daisy) Rowley, Matthew Sharrow, Joanne Weidow, Steve Wendel, & Judy Wolfel. We pray in hope that God's healing power may touch all those who are sick.

### THANK YOU

Thank you for the very generous Gift to Sacred Heart in the amount of \$5,000

### FATIMA PRAYER GROUP

Monday Night Apostolate of Fatima Prayer Group will pray the Rosary at Sacred Heart Church starting at 6:00 p.m. **All are welcome.**



### 2022 MASS BOOK & TABERNACLE ANGEL CANDLES~

**IS NOW OPEN** Please stop by the Parish Office or call to schedule your 2022 Masses. Keep in mind that Weekend Masses and Tabernacle Angel Candles are limited. Please try to combine your Intentions wherever possible as we are unable to give you all Weekend Mass times.



**Thank you for your cooperation.**

### "31 DAY" VOCATION CALENDAR - Please

consider joining the Parish "31 Club" for Vocations to the Religious Life. Try to attend a Mass, Holy Hour, Pray a Rosary **OR** pray on your chosen date and offer it for:

- Priests/religious who have served our parish in the **past**.
- For those priests, religious and deacons serving **now**.
- To ask the Lord of the harvest for **future** vocations.

27th	Pamela Hunt, Marge Gerg
28th	Patsy McAllister, Mark Bauer
29th	Myra Trgovac, John Kosco
30th	Jeanne Dippold, Gary Lang
31st	The Steve Fritz Family, Leona Fritz
1st	Rose Johnston, Terri Bish
2nd	Catherine Labant, Joe Lynch

**FINANCE REPORT for November, 2021**

Weekly Offering (4 Sundays).....	\$41,172
Other Income .....	\$1,583
Monthly Expenses .....	\$53,923
Short.....	\$11,168

**CATHOLIC SERVICES APPEAL (CSA) Update**

Parish Assessment.....	\$49,004
# of Pledges .....	177
Amount Pledged .....	\$44,250
Received as of 12/13/2021 .....	\$42,175

**SAINT OF THE WEEK****St. Stephen ~ Feast Day December 26**

The Acts of the Apostles tells the story of St. Stephen, the first Christian martyr.

A man filled with grace and power, he worked great wonders among the people. Some Jews debated with St. Stephen but could not match his wisdom and spirit.

Eventually, a charge of blasphemy was brought up against him, and the local population demanded that he be tried and sentenced. He was seized and carried before the Sanhedrin.

Despite the danger he faced, in front of the Sanhedrin and his accusers, St. Stephen gave a long speech about the history of Israel and the blessings that God had given upon His chosen people. He talked about how Israel had become disobedient despite God's abundant mercy. This enraged his accusers, and eventually the crowd dragged him out of the city and stoned him to death. Even in his final moments, St. Stephen displayed great forgiveness and even asked God not to hold the sins of his attackers against them. Hundreds of years after his death, he is still a role model for us to follow.

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**ECC PTO Holiday Club Tickets ~** The PTO is giving away \$480 a week for 50 weeks! \$1000 on Easter, 4th of July, Labor Day and Christmas! \$7000 at the final drawing in January! Can win multiple times per ticket! Tickets \$60/donation Drawing starts January 2nd, 2022 Contact: Becky Gabler @ 814-335-3034 or email becky.gabler@yahoo.com

**SPECIAL ENVELOPES FOR JANUARY 2022**

Jan., 01, 2022 Solemnity of Mary Offering

**DATES TO REMEMBER**

**Mondays** Praying the Rosary in Church **6:00 p.m.**  
**Wednesdays** Rosary in Church **6:00 p.m.**  
**Fridays** Rosary in Church **1:00 p.m.**

**AREA NEWS**

**BOWLS OF LOVE** is a free meal served **every Wednesday** at the First United Methodist Church from **4-5:00 PM**. Everyone is welcome.

**ADORATION AT QUEEN of the WORLD** every **Thursday** following the **7:00 AM Mass**. Closing: Evening prayer and **Benediction: 5:00 PM**.

**GIVING TREE...**

**A BIG Thank You** to everyone who donated to the Giving Tree this past Christmas. Through your generosity, hundreds of children got to enjoy a Merry Christmas. May God richly bless you and your families.

**COMING BACK TO CHURCH****Question:**

I have been away from the Church for a few years and really want to get active again, not so much for me, but for my children. Is this a bad reason to come back to Church?

**Answer:**

If you are on your way to the supermarket, and you are forced to detour from your usual route because of road work, does the food you buy taste different? Is the meal less filling? Are the vegetables less tasty? Of course not. In our faith journey, there are many detours called sin. Some are greater than others, some are even a bit longer. But God's grace comes to us in ways we understand and recognize and need. Your children leading you back to the Church is not as important as the fact that you are back.

This is an opportunity for you to renew, strengthen, and deepen your faith. Regardless of how we get to Church, or what draws us closer to God, the fact is we are there. Do what you need to do to get right with God and the Church. Go to confession, begin good family religious practices, and be involved in the ministries your parish offers.

Be more than a lukewarm parishioner.

Be the kind of Catholic you want your children to be.

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**ENGAGEMENT ENCOUNTER~**

Engaged couples are invited to attend an Engagement Encounter this Jan., 28-30, 2022.

Engagement Encounter is a restful retreat designed to provide a meaningful environment for deepening the conversations and habits necessary in a happy, holy, and lasting marriage. Here is what a past participant had to say: "I cannot thank you enough for an amazing experience this weekend. My fiancé and I will never forget it and all of the special moments."

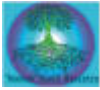
Learn more or register

at <https://www.eriecd.org/familylifeoffice/ee.html>.

We would love to welcome you this January!



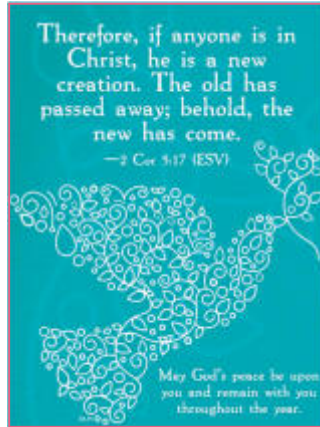
## St. Marys Inter-Parish



**Sun. Dec. 26 NO** Faith Formation for Grades 6-11  
Christmas Break

**Wed. Dec. 29 NO** Elementary Faith Formation -  
Christmas Break

**Sun. Jan. 2, 2022**  
**NO** Faith Formation for  
Grades 6-11  
Christmas Break



**A BIG THANK YOU** to all of those who volunteered and donated items in this year's Christmas Store at St. Marys Catholic Elementary School. This is always a huge success and greatly enjoyed by our students. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

### REFLECT

#### First Reading:

Hannah, the mother of Samuel, and Samuel's father are portrayed as parents of deep prayer and great faith. How would you describe the faith of your mother or father?

#### Second Reading:

John teaches us that if we believe in Jesus and love one another, "we may be called children of God." How do you show gratitude for being part of this holy family?



#### Gospel:

Luke is the only Evangelist to preserve a story about Jesus from his youth. In this account, Mary and Joseph are filled with "great anxiety" as they searched for Jesus who they thought was lost. How do you seek God's help for the anxious moments in your family? ©LPi

**Thank You!**

### NORTHERN TIER SETTLEMENT SERVICES, LLC Real Estate Closing

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**MUCH GRATITUDE** ~ from the Maternity Closet for all of the gifts that were collected this Christmas Season through the Living Nativity Tree. Once again the gifts will continue to help small children with the necessities for their everyday life. May God continue to send down His blessing to you and your families for your generosity.



Merry Christmas and  
Happy New Year.



From Fr. Tom and the entire  
staff of Sacred Heart.  
Be safe this New Year's Eve!

Just a reminder that the  
Parish Office is closed until  
January 03, 2022.



### LIGHTER SIDE

#### You Can't Take It with You

There was a very rich man who was just about to die, and he wanted to take some of his wealth with him. So, he started negotiations with God about the matter. God was not sure as it had never been done before and He did not want to set a precedent. Finally, after long talks, God reluctantly agreed to allow him to bring his wealth to heaven.

Just a few days before he died, the rich man converted all his money into gold bullion. He died and the funeral home made sure that the suitcases containing the gold bullion went with him. He arrived at the Pearly Gates with his suitcases and there was Peter. Peter told him he could not bring the suitcases into heaven. But the man said he had already spoken to God, and He had said it was OK. So, Peter got on the God phone, and sure enough it was true. Peter was curious as to what was so valuable that the man wanted to bring it into heaven. So he asked, "Could I look in the suitcases?"

The man opened the suitcases and Peter exclaimed, "Why are you bringing pavement to heaven!" ©LPi

**Equalized~** It doesn't matter where you live, Or the money that you've saved, If your clothes are off the rack, Or if they're tailor made, In His eyes we're all the same, His love flows in equal share, He alone defines your worth, There's no need to compare... Yourself with others.

Poem by: Susan Kneidel  
Art: Heavenly Light.com



**DECEMBER 26, 2021**  
**THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH**

Families can be very difficult things to negotiate. This is true not only of our families of origin, the current family of which we are a part, the family of our Church, our society, and our global family as well. Everything human can be found in family stories. Those stories speak of wonderful life-giving successes as well as painful spirit-robbing abuses. Our greatest joys and our greatest wounds are usually connected with the experience of family. Our needs, experiences, and unresolved baggage often color what we bring to our familiar relationships. They contribute to our level of defensiveness, how guarded and protected we become, and what prejudices we believe.

In order to break the cycle of dysfunction we have to remember that it is not only by human effort that we negotiate the difficult and challenging events of our lives. There is a Divine Effort at work as well. For sure, the human effort can create quite a mess and easily destroy lives. This is true of any family with which we are associated. Today's Feast of the Holy Family serves to help us understand that there is a Divine Story being told as well. It is a story of perseverance in the face of hardship, determination in the face of despair, healing when we see nothing but wounds, and light where there is darkness.

Do we believe that God is always working, guiding, restoring, and leading? Unless we do, we will never be free from the imperfections and wounds that bind us and never be able to understand what it really means to forgive. Pope Francis tells us that the "light which comes from the Holy Family encourages us to offer human warmth to other families." While this is most certainly true, we can only really begin to do this when we realize that we are still works in progress, not anchored to the wounds and sins of our past, and still a leading star in God's continually unfolding story of love. The Holy Family persevered and radiated warmth because they knew they were not alone. We can too.

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**ALL IN THE FAMILY**

At first glance, we can often find the image of the Blessed Mother, St. Joseph and the Christ Child intimidating — who are we to aspire to that level of discipleship? How could we ever hope to conform ourselves to that mold? Sometimes, it can even be painful — perhaps we hail from a broken family or struggle with a broken relationship within our family, or perhaps we long to be a mother or a father ourselves and that state in life has eluded us.

But the image of the Holy Family is, in reality, a beautiful invitation to us all, no matter our vocation or our state in life, and the example of Mary, Joseph and Jesus is rich with the symbolism of stewardship.

You need not be a biological mother who has carried a child in her womb to be a mother in spirit. Who in your world needs you to love them with the heart of a mother?

The same goes for fatherhood. The Church and the world are crying out for the courageous witness of Christian men like St. Joseph. Who can you love with the steadfast, selfless protection of a father?

Who in your life needs you to love them with the faithful, unconditional love of a son? Who needs your gentle and constant love as a daughter?

We are the Body of Christ, friends. Those of us rejoicing in heaven, those of us suffering in purgatory, and those of us struggling here on earth. We are the great family. Let us love each other well. — *Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS* ©LPi

**INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK**

It was the best of times and it was the worst of times. Our families can bring out the best and the worst in us. This is true of our families of origin, the current family of which we are a part, the family of our church, our society, and the like. In all of our family experiences, what stands out as our most challenging memory? Everything human can be found on the pages of family life. But there is also a Divine story to be discovered as well. When life gets difficult and perplexing, today's Feast of the Holy Family stands to remind us that it is not just by human effort that we tread treacherous waters. We have to remember and learn from the Divine effort too. We need this perspective if our love lessons are going to be learned completely and well. We are all works in progress and we all come from homes that are broken by imperfection. In whatever life brings us and in whatever family we find ourselves, may the promptings we feel toward faith and hope lead us to greater love.



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