

SACRED HEART CHURCH

Bushwood, Maryland – Founded 1755

Rev. Charles A. Cortinovis, Pastor

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

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.

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.	22	Mass at Holy Angels – 7:30 a.m.	
Tues.	Dec.	23	7:00 a.m.	Frank & Helen Hall
Wed.	Dec.	24	4:30 p.m.	Joseph Farr
Wed.	Dec.	24	Midnight	Intentions of Flower Donors
Thurs.	Dec.	25	9:00 a.m.	Parishioners of Sacred Heart
Fri.	Dec.	26	7:00 a.m.	Zach Hill
Sun.	Dec.	28	6:30 a.m.	Anna Marie Sandberg
			8:00 a.m.	Parishioners of Sacred Heart & Holy Angels Parish

Dear Sacred Heart parishioners,

At some point in our lives, all of us have been surprised. Sometimes the surprises are unexpected blessings, other times they are unexpected challenges. Pope Francis speaks often about our God being a God of surprises, and there were few surprises bigger in human history than the Annunciation. On that day, the Archangel Gabriel appeared to the Blessed Virgin Mary to announce to her great news, that she had found favor with God and that she would conceive and bear a son through the mysterious workings of the Most High. She received an incomparable blessing, to be the mother of the Savior of the world. No one could be closer to God than she, who carried him in her very body for nine months.

Our Catholic tradition states that Mary questioned Gabriel's message because she had privately made a vow of perpetual virginity to God. It was biologically impossible for her to have a child and remain faithful to her vow of virginity, and yet she was reminded by Gabriel that "nothing would be impossible for God." Mary, though surprised by God's amazing generosity, and not fully understanding the full consequences of what she agreed to, said yes to the angel's invitation.

From that moment on, our world would never be the same. From the moment of Mary's "yes" God entered the world in a new way. He had been present to Abraham and his descendants. He was present to Moses when he gave him the Ten Commandments on top of Mt. Sinai, and was present to the Israelites for centuries after that. But only through the yes of a humble woman did God come into our world as a human being like us. From that point on, the long awaited promise of "Emmanuel" or "God is with us" was fulfilled. On Christmas Day, that promise became visible to us. The Church gives us the Gospel of the Annunciation on the Fourth Sunday of Advent to direct our thoughts towards the great mystery that we will celebrate later this week on Christmas, namely the mystery of the Incarnation, of God becoming a human being in Jesus Christ. We should approach this mystery with a sense of wonder that God, whom the heavens cannot hold, was for nine months in the womb of a human mother. It is God's greatest surprise, and a reminder to us that if he can become a human being, then he can do anything. As we face the challenges that confront us in this busy time, whether they be emotional problems, family problems, financial difficulties, or something else, remember Gabriel's words that "nothing will be impossible for God" because like Mary, the Lord is with us. If we remember that God is with us, we can have confidence to call upon him in any time that we need him.

Your servant in the Lord,
Father Charles Cortinovis

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE: The Masses for Christmas will be on Wednesday, Dec. 24th at 4:30 p.m. and at 12 Midnight with carols beginning at 11:30 p.m. There will be only one Mass on Christmas Day, Thursday, Dec. 25th at 9:00 a.m.

FOOD FOR THE POOR: Next weekend is Food for the Poor weekend. Please bring a bag filled with non-perishable food and leave it at the Sacred Heart altar.

DECORATING FOR CHRISTMAS: We will be decorating the church for Christmas on Monday, December 22nd, starting at 5:30 p.m. Much help is needed.

CHRISTMAS OFFICE HOURS: The parish office will be closed from Wednesday, December 24th – Friday, December 26th. The office will reopen on Monday, December 29th.

PRAYER GROUP: Sacred Heart Prayer Group will not meet next Tuesday, December 23rd.

\$100 A MONTH CLUB WINNER: The \$100 A Month Club winner for December is James L. Dorsey, Sr. of Chaptico.

RECTORY HOUSEWARMING: Sacred Heart will be hosting a housewarming party for the newly completed rectory on Sunday, December 28th, from 12 – 2 p.m. Parishioners are invited to tour the rectory and enjoy refreshments.

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.

2015 \$100 A MONTH CLUB TICKETS: Sacred Heart 2015 \$100 A Month Club is now being formed. Tickets are being distributed. C.D. & Patty Raley are the raffle chairmen.

SENIORS' CHRISTMAS PARTY: The Seventh District Optimist Club will be sponsoring their Annual Seniors' Christmas Party Sunday, December 21st, beginning at 12 noon at **Holy Angels Hall** in Avenue.

WARM MEETINGS: The next meeting will be Monday, January 5th, at 7 p.m. at Holy Angels Sacred Heart School. Please consider giving a monetary donation to help cover the heating, electric, cleaning of the linens, and food costs associated with the WARM program. Checks should be made to Holy Angels Church with "WARM" in the memo section.

REQUEST FOR INTERCESSORY PRAYER: Sick: Madeline Hutchins, Joseph Freddie Morgan, Harrison Robrecht, Mike Bailey, Bert Dean, Elizabeth Graves, Bernie Quade, Agnes Pilkerton, Melanie Gibson, Elaine Frederick, Lisa Quade, Billy Pilkerton, Madeline Hutchins, Jr. Farrell, Barbara Raley & Nancy Rueckert.

DECEMBER VOTIVE CANDLE INTENTIONS

Sacred Heart Altar – Given by George McWilliams in memory of Barbara McWilliams.

Blessed Mother Altar – Given by Charles & Marjorie Boyers in memory of Alfrieda Boyers.

Saint Joseph Altar – Given by Agnes Tyer in memory of Wanda Randalson.

If you would like to dedicate a candle, please call the rectory during office hours.

NOVEMBER COLLECTION RESULTS

Offertory:	Loose \$1,900.96	Env. \$13,622.00	Total \$15,522.96
All Saints:		620.00	+ 620.00
			16,142.96
		Total Expenses for November	- 15,816.66
			326.30

***Please note that there were 5 weekends in November instead of 4.**

Thanksgiving - \$1,558.00

School Support - \$789.00

Priests of the Arch. Retirement - \$1,522.00

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED GENEROSITY!