

SACRED HEART CHURCH

Bushwood, Maryland – Founded 1755

Rev. Anthony Lickteig, 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

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.	26	Mass at Holy Angels	– 7:30 a.m.
Tues.	Dec.	27	7:00 a.m.	Albert & Susan Long
Wed.	Dec.	28	Mass at Holy Angels	– 7:30 a.m.
Thurs.	Dec.	29	NO MASS	
Fri.	Dec.	30	7:00 a.m.	Holy Souls
Sun.	Jan	1	6:30 a.m.	Helen Seymour
			8:00 a.m.	Michael Johnson

Dear Sacred Heart Family,

Joy to the world, the Lord has come! These opening lines to a classic Christmas hymn reflect the truth of this great feast. Jesus, the long awaited savior of mankind, has been born. When I was a kid, Christmas seemed like it would never arrive. The days before Christmas seemed to stretch on forever. It seemed like I could never wait that long. Therefore what a joy it was when Christmas finally came! Christmas in my eyes was the happy end to a long season of anticipation.

But for us Christians, Christmas is not just the end of a long period of waiting. Yes, on Christmas, God sends us his Son, the long-awaited Messiah, who will free us from our sins. But Christmas is also a beginning, a new beginning. The Son of God, Jesus Christ, has joined himself to our human nature forever. Just like a wedding day is not the end of a relationship but the beginning, so Christmas is the beginning of our very close and intimate relationship with God in Jesus Christ,

But Christmas also marks the birth of a child. And as any parent will tell you, the birth of a baby is not only the end of months of anticipation, it is also the beginning of something wonderful. Despite the initial sleepless nights and later frustrations with raising a child, a new life has come into your world. Jesus as a baby comes into our lives on Christmas to remain and to come closer to us. The rest of the liturgical year at Mass, we will steadily encounter this new life in the readings and in the Eucharist. How much our Lord wants this to be the beginning of something wonderful for us! And wonderful for Him, too! How much Jesus wants to draw closer to us, to share in our joys and sorrows, our good times and bad times, our sickness and our health. On Christmas, Jesus Christ comes among us as our Creator but also as a very real and very human friend. May all of us accept this invitation to accept His offer to come into our lives and by sharing our most intimate moments, transform us forever.

Merry Christmas!

Fr. Anthony Lickteig

PARISH OFFICE HOURS: The parish office will be closed on Mon. Dec. 26th, and Wed., Dec 28th thru Mon. Jan. 2nd. The office will reopen on Tuesday, Jan. 3rd.

HOLIDAY CHRISTMAS CONCERT: Sacred Heart Church in Bushwood, Maryland is hosting a Holiday Christmas Concert featuring the Chesapeake Orchestra Brass Players on Wednesday, **December 28th**, starting at 6:30 pm. The concert will feature works of Bach, Handel and Holiday Favorites at the beautifully decorated Sacred Heart Church in the heart of the Maryland country. Performers will be Music Director of the River Concert Series, Jeffrey Silberschlag, trumpet, with Zachary Silberschlag, trumpet, Nathaniel Silberschlag, Horn, and Bryan Bourne, trombone. Admission is free and doors open at 5:45 p.m. An anonymous donor will donate \$5 to MCA for every MCA student who attends. A sign-up sheet will be in the back of church. Check us out on Facebook or at sacredheartbushwood.org for more information.

WARM PROGRAM MEETINGS: Holy Angels and Sacred Heart Parishes will host participants of the WARM program from January 22nd – January 29th. The next coordinating meeting will be at Holy Angels Sacred Heart School on January 3rd at 7:00 p.m.

FAITH FORMATION: Faith Formation will resume on January 8th. Enjoy the Christmas Season!

SCHEDULING MASSES FOR 2017: We are now scheduling Mass intentions for 2017; if you would like to schedule a Mass intention for a loved one please contact the rectory during normal business hours.

ALTAR FLOWERS: As the New Year is approaching, we are now accepting flower donations in memory of your loved ones, or for a special intention. This is a way to beautify our altars.

MCA NEW YEAR'S EVE BINGO: Mother Catherine Academy School will be having a New Year's Eve Bingo. To make reservations or for additional information please contact the school at 301-884-3165

BEGINNING THE NEW YEAR WITH THE LORD FORTY HOURS AT CHAPEL POINT: Often we focus in the New Year on resolutions which suggest we can fix ourselves but dint of will rather than being transformed through union with God. In this our anniversary year we will begin the new year by placing ourselves with our God in a very tangible way to remind us of His companionship with us. On December 31, 2016 and January 1, 2017 we will celebrate the 40 Hours Devotion of Eucharistic adoration. There will be several prayer services during the times of exposition. Most of the time will simply be dedicated private time before the Lord. We will be soliciting volunteers from other parishes to join us. We need people to promise to be present for periods of time, such that there are always two people watching and praying. Sign up for prayer before the Blessed Sacrament on-line. Go to www.chapelpoint.org follow the Forty Hours links.

MARCH FOR LIFE TRIP: Our Lady of the Wayside will have a bus for the March for Life on January 27th. The bus will leave at 10:00 a.m. and return at 4:00 p.m. The cost will be \$15. The bus will hold 55 people and will be first come first serve. If you're interested please email olwoffice@gmail.com or call 301-884-2502

FATIMA PILGRIMAGE/RETREAT: Next year, 2017, celebrates the 100th Anniversary of the messages of Fatima, a very special time to go there on Pilgrimage! Join us on this trip as we fly non-stop out of Dulles to this special place of prayer at a time when we really need to pray for our country and each other. Father Michael Tietjen, pastor of Immaculate Conception Church, will be accompanying us as Chaplain! The pilgrimage will be from July 8-16, 2017. The cost of this trip is: \$2,989.00 and includes: Lodging, Breakfast and Dinner Daily, visits to many special places in Portugal and talks about the importance of living the Fatima Message in our world today. A \$500 deposit (airlines required) is due with your registration. To request a registration form, full itinerary or trip information email: pilgrimage@breadoflifecenterforpeace.org or call: (301) 475-9704. You may visit our website: www.breadoflifecenterforpeace.org/Fatima.aspx

REQUEST FOR INTERCESSORY PRAYER Sick: Wendy Gibson, Janice Blackistone, Ken Cheseldine, Janet Farrell, Margaret Deal, Rholand Hayden, Matthew Quade, Roger Raley, Mike Bailey, Owen Deal, Elizabeth Graves, Virgie Banagan, Bill Finegan, Trudy Quade, Miles Mattingly, Ginny Guy, Ernest Armstrong, Aloysius Butler, Madeline Hutchins, Harrison Robrecht, Bert Dean, Bernie Quade, Melanie Gibson, Elaine Frederick, Jr. Farrell, & Nancy Rueckert.

VOTIVE CANDLE INTENTIONS

Blessed Mother Altar – Given by the family of Joan & Ricky Farr in memory of Myrtle Thompson.

St. Joseph Altar – Given by John & Ann Hall in memory of Robert & Charlotte Cook and Paul & Aggie Hall.

Sacred Heart Altar – Given by Agnes Tyler in memory of Wanda Randalson.