SACRED HEART ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

MAILING ADDRESS:
205 St. Mary's Ave.
La Plata, Maryland 20646
(301) 934-2261

OFFICE LOCATION:
101 Charles St., Suite 204
La Plata, Maryland 20646
(301) 934-2261

PARISH SUMMER HOURS 9:00 AM-3:00 PM
Closed 11:45 AM-1:00 PM
Sacramental Emergencies—(301) 648-8783

August 30, 2026
Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

www.sacredheartlaplata.org
www.facebook.com/SacredHeartLaPlata

CLERGY

REV. SCOTT WOODS, Pastor
REV. CHRISTOPHER FEIST, Parochial Vicar
REV. JESSIAH ROJAS, Parochial Vicar
REV. MR. WILLIAM CARTER, Permanent Deacon
REV. MR. MATTHEW LAIDLEY, Permanent Deacon
REV. MR. ALBERT GRAHAM, JR., Permanent Deacon, Retired

PARISH PASTORAL STAFF

ANNA ALBRITTAIN, Director Community Catholic Youth Ministry
(240) 901-2254 | aalbrittain@sacredheartlaplata.org
ELLEN BLUMHARDT, Fertility Awareness Coordinator
(301) 641-1377 | ellen.blumhardt@gmail.com
KATHY GREENE, Homebound Coordinator
(240) 416-1122 | kdgknitter@gmail.com
STEPHEN LEHMAN-DAVIS, Young Adult Group Coordinator
youngadults@sacredheartlaplata.org
SARAH GRACE MASON, Music Director
sgmason@sacredheartlaplata.org
WILLIAM WANNALL, Pastoral Associate
(240) 901-2252 | wwannall@sacredheartlaplata.org

PARISH ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

CHRISTINE BOWMAN, Office Manager
(240) 901-2255 | cbowman@sacredheartlaplata.org
DENEAN BUCKLEW, Secretary and Bulletin Editor
(301) 934-2261 | dbucklew@sacredheartlaplata.org
STACY HOWARD, Secretary
(301) 934-2261 | office@sacredheartlaplata.org
MICHAEL KNECHT, Director Facilities and Maintenance
(301) 934-2261

PARISH MEMBERSHIP: We welcome YOU! Join our parish family by registering online.

ARCHBISHOP NEALE SCHOOL

104 Port Tobacco Rd, La Plata - (301) 934-9595 or (301) 870-3679
Grades Pre-K thru 8 & After School Care
TERESA SKINNER, Principal

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT:

Monday thru Thursday, 12:30-8:30 PM
Friday 12:30-5:30 PM

FIRST FRIDAY DEVOTION: Mass at 7:00 PM followed by devotional prayers to the Sacred Heart and All-Night Adoration until 9 AM Mass on Saturday

HOLY DAYS OF OBLIGATION & FEDERAL HOLIDAY SCHEDULE:

11:00 AM-12:00 PM, Holy Hour | 12:00 PM-12:30 PM, Mass
11:30 AM-12:00 PM & 12:30 PM-1:00 PM, Confessions

HOLY MASS:

Monday thru Friday—7:15 AM, Mt. Carmel Monastery
12:00 Noon, Sacred Heart
Saturday—8:00 AM, Mt. Carmel Monastery
9:00 AM, Sacred Heart
Saturday Vigil—5:00 PM, Sacred Heart
Sunday—7:00 AM (No Music), 9:00 AM,
& 12:00 PM, Sacred Heart
8:00 AM, Mt. Carmel Monastery

SACRAMENTS:

ANOINTING OF THE SICK: Contact the parish office to make an appointment to receive this Sacrament.

BAPTISM: Fill out the Baptism Request Form on the parish website and contact the Pastoral Associate at least one month in advance of preferred date to attend a preparation class.

HOLY EUCHARIST: For the infirmed to receive Holy Communion at home, call the Homebound Coordinator or the parish office to make arrangements.

MARRIAGE: Couples must contact a priest or deacon at least 6 months before the anticipated date of marriage as a preparation program is required.

RECONCILIATION:
First Fridays: 6:30-7:30 PM | Saturdays: 4:00-4:45 PM
30 Minutes Before and After Most Masses | By Appointment

MARIAN DEVOTIONS: Weekly Miraculous Medal Novena and recitation of the Most Holy Rosary after 9:00 AM Saturday Mass. The Rosary is also prayed on Saturdays at 4:30 PM and on Sundays at 8:30 AM.

OCIA—ORDER OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION FOR ADULTS: Classes are held every Sunday September thru Easter from 10:30-11:30 AM on the church campus. Register on the parish website. For inquiries or those with schedule restrictions, contact the Pastoral Associate.

PARISH COUNCIL: Meets the 4th Sunday of the month at 11:00 AM in the Friendship Room.

POPE ST. JOHN XXIII FAMILY FAITH FORMATION: This family-based catechetical program teaches the entire family. Parents, guardians and children meet two Sundays a month for an hour from 10:30-11:30 AM on the church campus from September thru May. Register on the parish website; contact the Pastoral Associate with inquiries.

YOUTH GROUP: For students in grades 6-12, see parish website for calendar events.

BULLETIN SUBMISSION DEADLINES ARE NORMALLY 12 NOON ON MONDAYS.

Sacred Heart Church, La Plata

MASS INTENTIONS

SUNDAY, August 30, Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time
7:00 AM Repose of the soul of Fred G. Harder
8:00 AM Conversion of Souls
9:00 AM Repose of the soul of Agnes T. Proctor
12:00 PM Sacred Heart Parishioners

MONDAY, August 31, Weekday
7:15 AM Intentions of Mike Knecht
12:00 PM Repose of the soul of Erna Jane Ross

TUESDAY, September 1, Weekday; World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation
7:15 AM Repose of the soul of Dan Bowes
12:00 PM Repose of the soul of Margert Gleaves Knecht

WEDNESDAY, September 2, Weekday
7:15 AM Repose of the souls of Candido and Agapita Fernandez
12:00 PM Repose of the soul of Larry Allen

THURSDAY, September 3, Saint Gregory the Great, Pope and Doctor of the Church
7:15 AM Repose of the soul of Michael Miga
12:00 PM Repose of the soul of Richard Doutt

FRIDAY, September 4, Weekday
7:15 AM Vocations to Mt. Carmel Monastery
12:00 PM Repose of the soul of Lillie M. Bowman
7:00 PM Intentions of Shirley Lavery

SATURDAY, September 5, Weekday, Saint Teresa of Calcutta and the Blessed Virgin Mary; Vigil: Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time
8:00 AM Repose of the soul of Rev. Yvon David Brault
9:00 AM Deceased of Charles County
5:00 PM Repose of the soul of George Baciao

Feel free to come by the parish office to request a Mass intention! Note that the 8:00 AM Saturday and Sunday Masses, and the 7:15 AM daily Mass are celebrated at Mt. Carmel Monastery (MC), and all other Masses are celebrated at Sacred Heart (SH), unless otherwise noted.

Summer Office Hours

Please note that the Sacred Heart Office is currently operating on reduced summer hours. We are open 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM, Monday through Friday, closing for Mass/lunch daily from 11:45 AM—1:00 PM.

For Sacramental Emergencies outside of these hours, please contact (301) 648-8783.

FAMILY FAITH FORMATION

Registration is open for Family Faith Formation!

This is a chance for families with school-aged children to come encounter the Lord, each other, and learn more about our Catholic Faith. **We meet roughly two Sundays each month from 10:15-11:30.** Sessions include community time, then classroom instruction for adults, middle schoolers, primary schoolers, and childcare for toddlers and infants. There is no cost, but you must register through the parish website.

Field Mass – The Feast of Our Lady of Sorrows

A special Field Mass and Rosary will commemorate the Feast of Our Lady of Sorrows on **Tuesday, September 15, 2026, at the St. Mary's Queen of Peace Cemetery at 38888 Doctor Johnson Road in Mechanicsville** (Helen), Maryland (located behind the Mother Catherine Academy School) and are offered for the deceased members of our community.

Rosary and Mass will begin at 10:00 a.m. with celebrant Father Charles E. "Chip" Luckett from Our Lady of the Wayside.
An enclosable tent will be erected for everyone's comfort in the cemetery, rain or shine.

For additional Information, contact
Catholic Cemeteries Southern MD Regional Office
(301) 475-5005 or (301) 932-1766
or email qop@ccaw.org.

Join the Sodality of the Blessed Virgin Mary

The Sodality invites ladies age 18 or above to join! Our mission is to foster devotion to Jesus and His Blessed Mother, while supporting our parish life through spiritual, apostolic and community activities. We unite both the spirit of Martha and Mary in service of our parish. Initiatives include monthly rosary, Day of Reflection, May Procession, providing rosaries and miraculous medals, helping Community Sundays, social gatherings, and so much more! **Please consider attending our next meeting today, August 30th, following the 9:00am Mass.**

We would love to welcome you to the Sacred Heart Sodality.
For more information, contact Theresa Moran at (240) 210-2069 or Theresa4484@gmail.com.

This weekend's Altar Flowers were donated by Grace Barnas
In Memory Of
Connie Barnas.

FALL BIBLE STUDY

The Gospel Of LUKE: The Story of Salvation Fulfilled

Written and presented by
Jeff Cavins & Dr. Jeffery Morrow

This is an eight session study that walks through the key moments of Salvation History.

Monday Evenings, 7: 00 pm-8:30 pm Women Only
9/14/26—11/9/26
Tuesday Mornings, 10:00 am -11:30 am Everyone Welcome
9/15/26—11/10/26

Registration is available on the Parish Website
Fee is $35.00 which includes the workbook

TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

PRIEST'S CORNER

Dear Parishioners,

To me, one of the most striking lines in this Sunday's Gospel is Jesus' rebuke of Peter, "You are thinking not as God does, but as human beings do." Think about it, Peter just confessed Jesus as the Christ, yet when Jesus explains that he must suffer and be killed, Peter cannot accept it. If we are aware, it should be easy to recognize ourselves in Peter. We can believe in God and still learn to see our lives according to the priorities of the world.

One thing that comes to mind for me as someone who participated in many sports teams growing up, played college football and later coached college football is that sports can be a wonderful gift, it can be a real "playground of virtue" where discipline, teamwork, courage, sacrifice, and friendship can be taught. But even good things can become disordered when they begin to occupy a place that belongs to God.

There is nothing wrong with cheering for our favorite sports team or praising your child's accomplishments on the field. But we should ask ourselves occasionally: What occupies my attention? What gets my time? What am I most excited about? What am I willing to sacrifice for?

We can rearrange our schedules around games while treating Sunday Mass as an inconvenience. We can become deeply invested in the success of a team whose players do not know our names, while becoming inattentive to the people God has actually placed in our lives.

The problem is not sports. The problem is when something good becomes so important that it distracts us from what is truly good.

Jesus invites Peter and in turn, us, to learn to "think as God does." This means allowing Christ to reorder our loves and our priorities. The question is, whether our enjoyment of these good things helps us become better Christians or slowly takes our hearts away from Christ. The world constantly tells us what deserves our attention. The disciple learns to ask the most important question, "Lord, what deserves my heart?"

United in the Eucharist,
Fr. Jessiah Rojas

Youth Group Fall Kick-Off

All middle & high schoolers are invited to our **Fall Kick-Off: Water Wars!** Join us **Saturday, September 5th from 6-8pm at St. Catherine's Hall**. Bring a change or clothes & a towel - but if you don't want to get wet, we will have other activities.

Contact the youth minister with questions & to RSVP, or go to https://www.sacredheartlaplata.org/youth-ministry.html.

Loretta and Mary's Food Pantry (Jake's Place)

Located behind the church

Distribution every third Saturday 9-11 AM
Nonperishable food donations accepted from 8 AM—8 PM at the designated pantry location.

Please, Pray for our Sick

Jean Lawrence, Marge Gardiner, Vicki Middleton, Joe Husick, Dennis Gilroy, Kenny Baird, Caryn Daniele, Daniel (Ryan) Millar, Julian "JC" Carroll, James E. Yates, Garrett Carson, Peggy Baggott, Adley Prator, Tess Franch, Dalton Prator, Marie Scott, Sandy Latimer, Linda Copsey, Jamie Klotz, Daniel O'Leary, Michael Scoggins, Bill Young, Bob Farncomb, Tiffany Bratton, Ann Rees, Heather Muth, Cindy McDonald, Tamaran Howell, Matthew Greene, Joyce Evans, Joey Simpson, Teresa Shutters, Jessica Williams, Leanne Beutler, Pam Chisley, Rosa Baciao, Belynda Miles, Lou Perry, Cynthia Gray, Brian Wasko, Zoila Montelongo, Samuel Paladino, F. Gary Swann, Sr., M. Samantha Swann, Diane Harmis, Fr. Ron Potts, Laura Farmer, Joyce Lee, Raymond Jones, Charles Scott, William Crouch, Mike Runfola, Reed Faasen, Charlotte Hemsley, Bill Deer, Lisa Deer, John Gagnon, Monique Lamoureux, Tina Cooksey, Linda Welch, Michael Dobry, Marily Edelen, Evelyn Farmer Brown, Travis Palmer, Rena Bland, Ellison Vanderyt, Zyyonna Warren, Catherine Posey, Brenda Monshower, Rose Radcliff, Dr. John Lucero, Joe Gardiner, George Jackson, Mikey Raymond

Names will remain on the above prayer list for 60 days from the time they are requested. You may renew your request.

Have a Prayer Request?

Scan the QR code to submit your intentions. Share your prayer requests with us so we may pray for you!

SACRED HEART MEN'S GROUP (SHMG)

All men of the parish are invited to come to SHMG!

Saturday Mornings, Sacred Heart Friendship Room
7:00-7:30 AM, Coffee and Donuts
7:30-8:30 AM, Priest or Deacon led Discussion

September 14, 6pm men's get together at The Charles.
Contact Gene Ambrogio 240-416-3748 for more information.

CEMETERY NEWS

The cemetery team is looking for people who may be interested in helping maintain the appearance of our parish cemetery. With Fall around the corner your help will be appreciated with yard maintenance tasks (no lawn mowing). Call the parish office and leave your contact information and someone will get in touch with you regarding how you can help.

Forgiveness and Healing

Since 1973 when the Roe v. Wade decision first legalized abortion, an estimated 66 million abortions have occurred in the United States through 2025 according to the American Life League. Women who were challenged and stressed by the circumstances surrounding the pregnancy, and the people on whom they normally would rely for support in difficult circumstances were unable, unwilling, or unavailable to help with the crisis pregnancy. Boyfriends, even husbands, said 'they weren't ready for fatherhood'. A woman who lacks the willing support and encouragement of the father to help raise the child is more likely to choose abortion.

Women, and all those involved in the decision to abort, must believe, or try to believe, there was no human life present in the womb. To admit this is to admit complicity in the killing of an innocent human being. Society refuses to recognize the incontrovertible facts about human life before birth.

Many people close to a woman in a crisis pregnancy don't feel comfortable with the decision to abort, but they don't know what to say. They want to be supportive and nonjudgmental, so they say something like, "You are really in a bad situation and I'll support whatever you decide". The helpful response, the right response should be, "Don't have an abortion. I will not abandon you. Together we will find a way for you to give birth to your baby."

The Catholic Church has long recognized abortion's impact on women and their families. While law and society often pit the interests of a mother against those of her unborn child, the Church recognizes that their best interests are joined. What is best for the child is also best for the mother.

The Catholic Church has a Project Rachel Ministry as a way of healing. Simply giving people information can help. Pray that they will eventually talk to someone. Their lives can be transformed by the Church's healing ministry.

Contact the Project Rachel helpline of the Archdiocese of Washington at 301-982-2008 or projectrachel@adw.org or hope@adw.org.

Let us pray for those who have participated in an abortion and feel that they have committed an unforgivable sin, may they come to know the Lord's limitless mercy, and turn to Him for forgiveness and healing. Amen.

Afternoon Tea Party!

September 20, 2026, 2:00–4:00 PM
Sacred Heart, Friendship Room

Enjoy a relaxing afternoon of tea, delicious treats, and fellowship.

A prize will be awarded for the wearer of the Best Hat!

Tickets: $65.00 per person/Table of eight: $500.00
Children's Tea: $25.00 per child
Reservations are required, and seating is limited.
Reserving a seat with payment will be available through Sunday, September 13th.
For tickets or more information,
contact Maureen Freeman at (954) 257-7530.

SCHOOL NEWS

Archbishop Neale School is currently accepting applications for Aftercare Workers for the 2026–2027 school year. For more information, please contact Mrs. Carolyn Bowman at anschildcarecenter@archbishopnealeschool.org or Ms. Pam Gavin at pgavin@archbishopnealeschool.org. You may also call the school office at (301) 934-9595.

Check out our Social Media Pages!

https://www.facebook.com/archbishopnealecatholicschool
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ALTAR FLOWERS

I would like to have flowers placed on the altar
*****In Honor of (H) / OR / In Memory of (M)*****

_____

Saturday Vigil or Sunday Mass Requested
(date not guaranteed):

_____

Given by _____

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

Phone Number_____

Suggested Donation: $50

Altar flowers can be donated weekly (except during Advent and Lent) in memory of a loved one or to commemorate a special occasion. If interested, drop this form and your donation into the collection basket or mail to Sacred Heart Parish Office, 205 St. Mary's Avenue, La Plata, MD 20646. God bless you!

125th Anniversary Museum

Sacred Heart's 125th Anniversary Museum will be closed this weekend. The museum will be open during our upcoming Community Sundays and other special events in the Friendship Room. The Gift Shoppe is still accepting online orders at https://bit.ly/SH125th.

The Knights of Columbus

Answer the call to lead with faith!

Calling on all Catholic gentlemen of the Parishes of Sacred Heart, Mt. Carmel, St. Catherine of Alexandria, St. Ignatius Loyola, Chapel Point and St. Ignatius Loyola, Hilltop. Are you seeking an opportunity to grow your faith, serve your parish and your priests, and become a beacon of hope and inspiration in your community? Joining the Knights of Columbus will fulfill your commitment to "make a difference in someone's life." Membership also provides you with access to top rated life insurance and vetted moral investment products to care for your loved ones for years to come.

For more information, please contact **John Lee, Grand Knight,** at (703) 915-6994 or email at **jlee1257@ gmail.com**. **Register online at: www.kofc.org/joinus using Local Council #2279 and Referral Code #5223191.**

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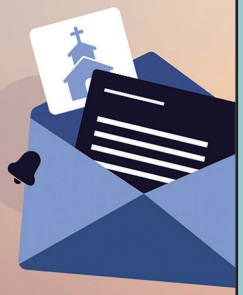

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