



HOLY NAME OF JESUS PARISH

Polish National Catholic Church
15 THAYER STREET
SOUTH DEERFIELD, MA 01373

Rev. Robert M. Koerber, Pastor
Email: koerber702@comcast.net
Emergency Contact: (413) 530-8575
Parish Phone: (413) 665-2129
FB: Holy Name of Jesus, South Deerfield

TODAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2024

QUINQUAGESIMA SUNDAY – 50 DAYS

9:00 am – Holy Mass of the Eucharist to be
celebrated in the Traditional Rite.

OPENING HYMN

“TO THEE WE COME, O LORD, OUR GOD”

To Thee we come, O Lord, our God,
Before Thine altar, Father
Thou knowest best our yearning hearts;
This supplication answer.
Lift up from want Thy people, Lord,
Bless us, O God; O Father, bless our toil.

Under Thy cross we stand prepared,
To serve Thee with devotion;
Be it with sweat of blood or tears,
Or humble resignation.
For we Thy people are, O Lord,
Save us, O God; O Father, bless our toil.

ENTRANCE HYMN

(Isaiah 42:8-10a)

V. I am the Lord, this is My Name; My glory I give to
no other, nor My praise to idols. See now, the
earlier things have come to pass, new ones I now
foretell; before they spring into being, I announce
them to you.

R. Sing to the Lord a new song, His praise from the
end of the earth.

V. Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the
Holy Spirit.

R. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall
be, world without end. Amen.

OPENING PRAYER

C: The Lord be with you.

R: And also with you.

C: Let us pray: Let us pray: Lord, Jesus Christ, You
have called us to new ways and new beginnings.
You have made us a new creation. May we be ever
thankful for past mercies, ever joyful for past
favours, and ever more passionate to serve You. For
You live and reign with the Father and the Holy
Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

R: Amen.



LITURGY OF THE WORD OF GOD

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF HOSEA
THE PROPHET (Hosea 2:16b,17b, 21-22)

Thus, says the Lord: I will lead her into the desert
and speak to her heart. She shall respond there as in
the days of her youth when she came up from the
land of Egypt. I will espouse you to me forever, I
will espouse you in right and justice, in love and in
mercy. I will espouse you in fidelity, and you shall
know the Lord.

V. This is the Word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL

(Hebrews 9:15: 8:13)

V. For this reason He is mediator of a new covenant:
since a death has taken place for deliverance from
transgressions under the first covenant, those who
are called may receive the promised eternal
inheritance.

R. When He speaks of a “new” covenant, He declares
the first one obsolete. And what has become
obsolete and grown old is close to disappearing.



A READING FROM THE SECOND LETTER OF
SAINT PAUL TO THE CORINTHIANS

(2 Corinthians 3:1b-6)

Brothers and sisters: Do we need, as some do, letters
of recommendation to you or from you? You are our
letter, written on our hearts, known and read by

all, shown to be a letter of Christ administered by us, written not in ink but by the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets that are hearts of flesh. Such confidence we have through Christ toward God. Not that of ourselves we are qualified to take credit for anything as coming from us; rather, our qualification comes from God, who has indeed qualified us as ministers of a new covenant, not of letter but of spirit; for the letter brings death, but the Spirit gives life.

V. This is the Word of the Lord.
R. Thanks be to God.

TRACT
(Isaiah 48:6b)

V. From now on I announce new things to you,
R. Hidden events of which you know not.

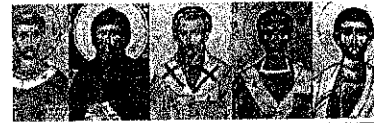


**THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO
SAINT MARK (Mark 2:18-22)**

V. The Lord be with you.
R/ And also with you.
V. A reading from the Holy Gospel according to
Saint Mark.
R. Glory be to You, O Lord.

The disciples of John and of the Pharisees were accustomed to fast. People came to Him and objected, "Why do the disciples of John and the disciples of the Pharisees fast, but Your disciples do not fast?" Jesus answered them, "Can the wedding guests fast while the bridegroom is with them? As long as they have the bridegroom with them, they cannot fast. But the days will come when the bridegroom is taken away from them, and then they will fast on that day. No one sews a piece of unshrunk cloth on an old cloak. If he does, its fullness pulls away, the new from the old, and the tear gets worse. Likewise, no one pours new wine into old wineskins. Otherwise, the wine will burst the skins, and both the wine and the skins are ruined. Rather, new wine is poured into fresh wineskins."

V. This is the Gospel of the Lord.
R. Praise be to You, Lord Jesus Christ.



PROFESSION OF FAITH – THE NICENE CREED

I believe in One God, the Father, the Almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth
Of all that is seen and unseen.
I believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
The only Son of God, eternally begotten of the
Father.

God from God, Light from Light, True God
from true God, begotten not made
Of one being with the Father.
Through Him all things were made
For us and for our salvation.
He came down from heaven:
By the power of the Holy Spirit
He was born of the Virgin Mary
AND BECAME MAN.

For our sake, He was crucified under Pontius Pilate
He suffered death and was buried.

On the third day He rose again
In fulfillment of the Scriptures.
He ascended into heaven and
Is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory
To judge the living and the dead
And His kingdom will have no end. .

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
The Lord and Giver of Live
Who proceeds from the Father,
With the Father and the Son
He is worshipped and glorified.
He has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in One, Holy, Catholic
and Apostolic Church
I acknowledge one baptism f
or the forgiveness of sins.

I look for the resurrection of the dead
And the + life of the world to come. Amen.



OFFERTORY VERSE
(Isaiah 43:19a)

V. See I am doing something new. Now it springs
forth, do you not perceive it?

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Almighty Father, through this holy oblation may we be ever conscious of Your love and thankful for Your mercy. We ask this in the name of Your Son, Jesus Christ, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.



ACT OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

Let us Pray: Most loving Jesus, I adore You in the Most Blessed Sacrament, in which You are truly present. I love You above all things and I long for You in my soul. Since I cannot receive You sacramentally, I ask You to come spiritually into my heart and heal my soul. I embrace You and unite myself with You; may I never be separated from You. In flame my heart with the fire of Your love, my Lord and Savior. Amen.

COMMUNION VERSE (2 Corinthians 5:17)

V. So, whoever is in Christ is a new creation: the old things have passed away; behold, new things have come.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

V. The Lord be with you.

R. And also with you.

V. Let us pray. Heavenly Father, through this Sacred Banquet You unite us to Your Son. May we come to know and love You through Him, the bride-bridegroom of our souls, We ask this through the same Jesus Christ, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. —

R. Amen.



ST. PAUL'S LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION TO ALL CHRISTIANS

“For you are our letter, written on our hearts, known and read by all, shown to be a letter of Christ.”

- 2 Corinthians 3:2

A letter of recommendation, also known as a letter of reference, is a document, by which the writer assesses the qualities, characteristics, and capabilities of a person being recommended in terms of that individual's ability and aptitude to perform a particular task or function. Today, letters of recommendation are typically related to employment, admission to an institution of higher education, scholarship eligibility, etc.

In today's second reading of Paul's Second Letter to the Corinthians, Paul speaks of letters of recommendation. But these letters are not written on paper by any one individual, but rather they are written spiritually, as Paul spoke about, being written on the hearts of individuals, by the grace of God. Paul further writes that these letters are not written on tablets of stone, but upon the “hearts of flesh” and not with ink but rather by the “Spirit of the living God.” I believe that “true” discipleship unto the Lord, is found in the transformation of ones character in becoming an individual “living letter” in Christ.

I believe that St. Paul, in referencing the word “letter” was and is speaking about the character of an individual, not only in his time, but now.

The word “character” is defined as “the mental and moral qualities that are distinctive to an individual.”

The late Rev. Dr. Billy Graham wrote the following about character: “When wealth is lost, nothing is lost; when health is lost, something is lost, but when character is lost, all is lost.”

The great 18th century poet and statesman Jonathan von Goethe wrote: “You can easily judge the character of a man by how he treats those who can do nothing for him. I also come to believe that one's character is based on what one does for another when no one is watching but God.”

The late Helen Keller, also wrote about “character.” She believed that character could not be achieved with just “ease or quietness,” but believed that character is found only through experience and suffering, in which the soul of an individual is strengthened, their ambition inspired, and their success achieved.

I believe that the true followers of Christ are those who willingly turn their lives over to Christ, strive daily to come to know Christ, through prayer, follow Christ in life, and live and share Christ with others.

This may be considered by some as a “rebirth” being “reborn,” which is displayed in one’s character as found in John 1:3. Jesus spoke about character, on His famous “Sermon on the Mount” in Matthew 7:15, and gave the baseline on how to know character using a simple analogy: “A good tree does not bear bad fruit and a bad tree does not bear good fruit. It is by their fruits you shall know them.”

St. Paul would give further definition to a Christian’s character as in Galatians 5:22-26:

“In contrast, the fruits of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self control. Against such there is no law. Now those who belong to Christ [Jesus] have crucified their flesh with its passions and desires. If we live in the Spirit, let us also follow the Spirit. Let us not be conceited, provoking one another, envious of one another.

My brothers and sisters: This Wednesday is Ash Wednesday, where the Christian church enters a 40-day somber retreat, reminiscence of Jesus’ journey in the wilderness. It is a 40-day journey of discovering Christ and striving to follow His teachings more deeply. It is a time of not only reflecting on the spiritual truths of our Lord’s teachings but most importantly it is a time of examining oneself, being “Living Letters” and examples as His disciples.

Jesus reminds us, that the transformation of an individual can only take place for those who truly seek God. We are reminded by Saint Paul that one becomes a “new creature” when the Gospel of Christ finds its place in the heart of the individual, when one seeks to be led by the Spirit of God when, one is blessed through the grace of God to “put on the Lord Jesus.” This, my brothers and sisters, brings about one’s salvation from the “old self.”

My brothers and sisters: May this upcoming season of Lent give each of us the wisdom and the insight of better knowing ourselves. May we take the words of St. Paul to heart, who concludes in today’s reading:

“We have such confidence through Christ toward God. Not that of ourselves we are qualified to take credit for anything as coming from us; rather, our qualification comes from God, who has indeed qualified us as the ministers of a new covenant, not of letter but of spirit.”

In the first letter of St. Peter 2:9-10 we read the following: “But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God’s people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.”



**Prime Bishop Francis Hodur
1866-1953**

A sermon by our First Bishop, Francis Hodur

Seventy-one years ago, on Tuesday, February 16, 1953, the first Prime Bishop and Organizer the PNCC died unto the Lord. In the season of Valentine’s Day, I would like to share with you one of his sermons, entitled:

On the love of God in the Human Heart

“Who abides in love, abides in God, and God in him.”
- 1 John 4: 16

I believe that the greatest gift we have is love. Love is a stimulus to life. What would life be for a child without the love of its mother? What would life be in the family, the Church and in humanity.”

And if human love is so necessary, how much more so is the love of God. However, I will try to say a few words about the topic of the lack of and the power of God’s love in the human heart.

Among all the matters of the world, the greatest love is God, the Creator and Judge.

Let us look around the world and at all those beings whom we should love in gratitude for benefits received and we will conclude that the benefactor is

God. Let us look at all creations the possession of which would make us most happy—and what are they in comparison to the perfection of God. God ingrained this love in all creatures, but the most in the human soul and heart.

But can it always be found? Does the love of God adhere in our body and heart?

The Commandment says: “You shall love the Lord thy God with your whole heart, and with your whole soul... and with all your strength.” - Mark 12:30

But do we act according to this injunction of Christ the Lord? Unfortunately, so rarely! And what is the cause of this?

First, weak faith. God is an invisible being and we are good at loving that which is visible, that which falls to the senses. That is why a person loves money, wealth.

Therefore, if we wish to uplift ourselves, then first of all, let us strengthen in ourselves faith in God, in justice and in holiness. Let us follow St. Augustine: “I ran” says this great confessor of grace “and I sought creatures to which I could offer love.” We must rise about this squalid land.

A second barrier to the love of God is a person’s self-centeredness. A person races around the world to satisfy his urges, but to no avail.

What a great force of love is in the human heart. Christ said: “I have come to cast fire upon the earth and want only that it be kindled.” This fire is love. But how frightening was that current pagan and Jewish world. Sensuality, conceit, licentiousness, bloodlust ruled. And despite this Christ said: “I have come to cast fire.”

How did Christ ignite this fire?

First in a certain small group of selected people. Not only such souls as St. John but also sinners, and the openly sinful Mary Magdalene. Wealthy and proud people for the love of God cast aside places and riches and joined with the poor and persecuted confessors of Jesus Christ.

Above the heads of the Christians a storm rages. All the pagan and Roman and Jewish powers pledged to break those in whose hearts burned the fire of holy love.

Of no effect were the tortures, the burning flames, the sword and death – the love of God and Jesus Christ were stronger.

And in the human heart what miracles this love of God causes! What a strengthened force it is, of joy and happiness.

St. Paul says that the power of God’s love in the human heart is so great that no one is able to tear away from this love “Who shall separate me [us] from the love of Christ? Shall...distress, or persecution, or hunger or nakedness or danger, or the sword?” No, neither death nor life.... will be able to separate me [us] from the love of God.”

The love of God in the human heart remains forever and for the ages. Human love is not sure, not certain. Everything on earth is temporary, mediocrity upon mediocrity, but the love of God no one can tear out of the human heart or destroy.

And do you have such love in your souls and hearts, does this holy fire spark in you, brothers and sisters?

If so, then you are happy and blessed a hundredfold. And if not, you are impoverished and unhappy.

The hour will come when you will have to depart this earth and all its doings, when you will abandon everything upon which you built earthly happiness, when your body will crumble to powder and ashes, and your bones will rot. O! Then you will be mindful of the limitless love of God which is the password to heavenly happiness.



FEBRUARY 14TH SAINT VALENTINE

St. Valentine is well known, as an early Christian saint and martyr of the 3rd century AD. Excavations over the years, have unearthed early Roman catacombs and found in an early ancient church, the name of “Valentine” which is believed to have been constructed over his grave. In 496 AD, Pope Gelasius marked February 14th to honor of his martyrdom, which took place around. 269 AD.

St. Valentine is believed to have been a Roman priest, and was arrested several times in his missionary work by bringing people to Christ.

During the the reign the emperor Claudius. it has been believed, that St. Valentine was imprisoned for marrying Christian couples and aiding Christians who were being persecuted by Claudius II. Both acts were considered serious crimes against Rome. It is also believed that Valentine attempted to convince Claudius II of the merits of Christianity. Becoming enraged, Claudius II sentenced Valentine to death unless he renounced his faith. St. Valentine refused and it is believed that he was then beaten to death with clubs and later beheaded. Another tradition tells the story that while St. Valentine was imprisoned in Rome, where he healed the jailer's blind daughter. Supposedly, on the day of his execution, he left a note to the girl signed, "Your Valentine."



THE BAD AND THE UGLY EMPERORS OF ROME

I am currently reading the book "Emperor of Rome" written by the author Mary Beard, an English scholar of ancient Rome, who also served as a professor at Cambridge College in England,

We know from church history, that the followers of Jesus, were first called Christians in the city of Antioch as found in Acts 11:25-26. What followed were three centuries of the persecution of Christians by Rome, beginning with the emperor Nero c. 64 AD and continued until the Edict of Milan, issued in 313 AD by emperor Constantine the Great. which saw the end of the imperial persecution toward Christians.

While some of the Roman emperors were somewhat more tolerant to the Christians, most of the Roman emperors were vehement in sending countless Christians to their death in prisons and through public displays in arenas. It is not surprising that as we remember the saints and the martyrs of the early Christian church, that so many took place at the hands of the emperors of Rome. As in the case of the "Great Persecution" of the Roman emperor Diocletian in 303 AD, churches were razed, holy scriptures were burned and assets confiscated. The following were among the major persecutors of the early Christians.



**NERO
(54-68 AD)**

Following the "Great Fire of Rome," in 64 AD, which some have speculated that Nero himself started, Nero blamed the fire on the Christians and thus the beginning of the persecution of Christians by Rome. During his reign, the beheading of St. Paul and the crucifixion of St. Peter took place.



**DOMITIAN
(86-96 AD)**

Under the reign of Domitian, St. John the Apostle was exiled to the island of Patmos. During the reign of the Roman emperor Domitian, Christians as well as Jews were savagely persecuted.



**DECIUS
(249 - 251 AD)**

In 250 AD, the Roman emperor Decius decided that all Christians had to pay homage to the Roman gods or be killed and he sought to fulfill these evil words during his short reign. Decius was to die one year after issuing his decree.



**DIOCLETIAN
(284-305 CE)**

Diocletian brought about the "Great Persecution" in 303 AD, which took the killing of all Christians to all areas of the far-reaching Roman empire.



THE WAY OF THE CROSS

Then Jesus told His disciples, "If any man would come after Me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for My sake will find it."
- Matthew 16:24-25

During the 40 days of Lent, Christians around the world are called upon to "take up their crosses" and "walk daily" with Jesus. We are reminded in Matthew 6:24 that Jesus was to say: "No man can serve two masters." In the end, each person must choose between serving that which is not seen to that which is seen, that which is temporary and that which is eternal and everlasting. I believe that Pre-Lent helps to prepare each of us for the season of Lent, and to answer the call of our Lord, to "come and follow Me."

Living in the world, I believe that so many people have lost their moral and spiritual "compasses," and so many more have been trapped and lost in the things found in this passing world, which I believe, cannot provide true or lasting happiness, as seen and taught by the ancient sages, seers and prophets of all religions, but especially found in the beginnings of Judaism, who along with the patriarchs and prophets, led to John the Baptizer and Jesus.

As we approach this season of Lent, beginning with Ash Wednesday, Christians around the world will be willing in a submissive act to be marked with ashes, a sign of their personal penitence, and will choose to surrender their egos in their willingness to better know and serve Jesus as their Lord and Redeemer and will make Lent their own personal spiritual journey with Him. The words that are spoken as we receive ashes comes from Genesis 3:19 with a simple but powerful message:

"Remember man, that thou art dust and unto dust thou shall return, but that your soul returns unto God."

In choosing to walk with Jesus these forty days of Lent, we are first called upon to stop and consider the cost of this walk. We all know what happened to Jesus

by His "Way of the Cross," which brought about salvation to all.

As Christians, we are all called upon, during this season of Lent, to reflect more deeply on the teachings of Jesus, His "Good News" and lessons of "Life, Love, Forgiveness, Prayer, Compassion and Sacrifice." as taught by our "Rabbi," this teacher from Galilee and how it applies to our daily living. Lent is a time where one strives to discern between the spiritual and the physical, as He spoke: "Seek ye first the Kingdom of God" as found in Matthew 6:33. It is the message that Jesus preached from the very beginning of His ministry. He was also to point out the way in which this kingdom can be found. In John 14:5, we read: "And Jesus said unto him, I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me." St. Paul would later remind the Christian community in the great city of Corinth in his first letter to the Corinthians 15:54 about the reward of this: "Brothers and sisters: "When this which is corruptible clothes itself with incorruptibility and this which is mortal clothes itself with immortality." Seeking the Kingdom" tells us of our own individual path back unto God.

So, what does it mean to deny oneself? During Lent, some would say that this means giving up for 40 days everything from chocolate to alcohol, cutting back on watching TV, but Lent is more than just giving up of the things associated with our "old self." Rather it is in the putting on the "new" self which gives one a new perspective of discernment. One of the key words of this season, I believe is "sacrifice."

We are reminded of this as our Lord taught a parable in Luke 5:37-38 that: "Likewise, no one pours new wine into old wineskins. Otherwise, the new wine will burst the skins, and it will be spilled, and the skins will be ruined. Rather, new wine must be poured into fresh wineskins."

During this season of Lent, we are asked, as baptized Christians, to take a personal inventory of ourselves as stewards and disciples of the Lord. We are called upon this Lent to contemplate the deeper meanings to His Parables and teachings and how it applies to each of us. The entire New Testament message is one of a new beginning, of "redemption" and "salvation" bought about by our Lord through His crucifixion and offered to each of us freely by the

Lord, but I believe it can only be found in following Jesus by taking up our own cross.

St. Paul brings the saving power of the Cross as found in his First Letter to the Church of Corinth 1:18: "For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God."

"Therefore, be imitators of God, as beloved children and walk in love, just as Christ also loved you and gave Himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God as a fragrant aroma. - Ephesians 5:1-2



OUR PARISH CALENDAR

DAILY HOLY MASS

8:45 am Morning Devotions

9:00 am Holy Mass of the Eucharist

THIS WEEK'S MASS SCHEDULE

(February 12th – February 17th)

- | | |
|-------------|---|
| Mon. 2/12 | Private prayer and meditation
Meletius of Antioch, Bishop
Anthny Kauleas, Bishop
Modestus of Sardinia, Doctor & Martyr |
| Tue. 2/13 | Mass for health and healing.
Polyeuctus, Martyr
Stephen of Rieti, Abbot
Martinian the Hermit, Abbot |
| Wed. 2/14 | Ash Wednesday
Valentine, Martyr
Abraham f Carrhae, Bishop
Maro, Abbot |
| Thurs. 2/15 | Mass to the Holy Saints of God
Faustinus & Jovita, Martyrs
Agape, Virgin and Martyr
Walfrid, Abbot |
| Fri. 2/16 | 71 st Anniversary of the Death of
Prime Bishop Francis Hodur
Francis Hodur, Bishop & Confessor
Juliana of Cumae, Virgin & Martyr
Elias, Jeremy and Companions, Martyrs |
| Sat. 2/17 | Mass to the Holy Name of Jesus
Thedulus & Julian, Martyrs
Loman, Bishop
Fintan of Cloneenagh, Abbot |



WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2024

8:45 am - Morning Devotions

9:00 am - Holy Mass of the Eucharist with the blessing and distribution of ashes to the faithful.

7:00 pm - Holy Mass of the Eucharist with the distribution of ashes to the faithful.



ED MISSION & EVANGELISM COMMISSION WEDNESDAYS AT NOON – CALL TO PRAYER

"Your lamp is a lamp to my feet, and a light for my path." - Psalm 119:105

During the month of February 2024, the Eastern Diocesan Mission and Evangelism Commission of the PNCC, has called upon its members and others to offer these two (2) following prayers on Wednesdays at noon:

A PRAYER FOR PARISH FAMILIES

My Lord and my God, hear my prayers for the well-being of my parish family. Grant us Your grace and all that is necessary for the spiritual growth and welfare of our congregation. Enlighten and guide my pastor and all who minister to the needs of Your people. Strengthen and awaken in us a living faith; comfort and heal the sick, lonely, and brokenhearted, soften those who are contentious or stubborn; awaken the indifferent, and rescue the fallen. Lord, help us to continue to proclaim Your truth. Unite us with Christ in like-mindedness of purpose. I ask this through Jesus Christ. Amen.

(from the PNCC Book of Devotions)

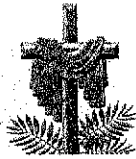
THE LORD'S PRAYER

OUR FATHER who art in Heaven, hallowed by Thy Name, Thy Kingdom come, Thy Will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us of our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen.



FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2024
71st Anniversary of the death
of Prime Bishop Francis Hodur

- 8:45 am – Morning Devotions.
- 9:00 am – Holy Mass of the Eucharist.
- 12:00 pm – Stations of the Cross.
- 7:00 pm – Stations of the Cross.



NEXT SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2024
1ST SUNDAY OF LENT

- 8:45 am – General Confession for adults.
- 9:00 am – Holy Mass of the Eucharist to be celebrated in the Traditional rite.
- 11:00 am - Please note: I will be traveling to St. Joseph's PNCC in Westfield, MA to celebrate Holy Mass.

OTHER PARISH NEWS

PENITENTIAL SERVICES DURING LENT

During the season of Lent, Penitential Devotions will be celebrated on Wednesdays and Fridays. The following is a schedule of these devotions. I call upon all to make room in their busy schedules to take part in these devotions to our Lord during this time.

EVERY WEDNESDAY DURING LENT

7:00 pm – Bitter Lamentations in English

EVERY FRIDAY DURING LENT

12:00 Noon – Stations of the Cross
 7:00 pm – Stations of the Cross

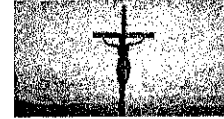


LENTEN COLLECTION BOXES

Again, this year, the Eastern Diocese has provided all its parishes with “Lenten Collection Boxes.” The sole purpose of these boxes is to aid our local communities and various outreach programs of our parishes.

This year’s Lenten theme is “**There is no greater love,**” taken from Matthew 9:13. During these forty (40) days of Lent, individuals are asked to contribute daily in one of the great pillars of Lent, “Almsgiving.” I call upon all our parishioners and friends to be a part of this annual cause. Thank you.

There are two prayers that are printed on these collection boxes which helps to bring into focus the “Great Lent.” I share with you these two prayers:



PRAYER TO FORGIVE ANOTHER

Dear Jesus, I admit to You that I think I have been wronged, and I feel angry. I feel someone has hurt me, whether they intended it or not, and I feel defensive. To be honest, I’m not sure that I trust that person anymore. Yet I know You call me to forgive. When I look at Your Cross, I think of how many times You have forgiven me and wiped the slate clean. I think of how often You have given me a new chance and a fresh beginning.

O Jesus, please come into my heart and heal me where I feel hurt or numb. For my part, I forgive this person as You have forgiven me. I ask You to bless them and heal them as well. Thank You, Lord, that You alone are the answer to our deepest needs. Amen.

LENTEN FAMILY PRAYER

Dear Lord, You are our Father! Thank you for wrapping Your arms around each of us with a deep, unconditional love. How much we need You! We surrender our hearts to You this Lent and give You permission to change them and make them more like the heart of Jesus.

We enter the throne room of Your presence, to worship You, receive Your love, and love You in return. Help us to be patient and give one another a second chance. Open our inner eyes to truly see and serve each other as best we can. Help us to pray fervently, fast humbly, and give alms cheerfully. May we love one another as You have loved us and be set free to rejoice with You this Easter! In Jesus’ name. Amen.



ONE BREAD, ONE BODY

Daily Devotions

New copies of the “**One Bread, One Body**” a daily devotional booklet, is now available, free of charge, found in the vestibule of our Church. These booklets provide daily devotions, which are in tune with the readings as found in the “Common Lectionary” of the Christian Church.



SOUPER BOWL OF CARING 2024

Throughout the years, our Parish has supported the **Annual Souper Bowl of Caring** to aid in helping to feed the hungry. Donations for this most worthy cause will begin this Super Bowl Sunday, February 11, 2024. Will you help by contributing to help feed the hungry? Thank you and may God bless.



Our Food Ministry: “Feeding the Hungry”

Our next scheduled grocery give-away will be held on **Saturday, February 17th** from 10:00 am while supplies last.

I wish to thank Cheryl Major, Mary Tudryn, Linda Puchalski and Sue Dibrindisi who have and continue to shop for groceries.

I want to also thank all who have and continue to donate non-perishable food items as well as monetary donations to aid our food ministry. We continue to ask for assistance of all non-perishable food items, as well as monetary donations. All donations will be greatly appreciated. May God bless all our endeavors.

ITEMS NEEDED FOR OUR FOOD PANTRY

Among the items that we are asking for:

- Cereals and packets of instant oatmeal.
- Fruit juices, - V8, Apple and cranberry

- powder milk/ condensed milk.
- Hot chocolate and tea bags.
- Pasta and spaghetti sauce
- Boxes of Mac-n-cheese
- Tuna in water
- Canned meats- chicken salmon, etc.
- Ramen noodles
- Soups- all varieties
- canned veggies and fruits.

We are constantly looking at how we can improve this ministry and we invite your input and suggestions.



**PALM SUNDAY FOOD & BAKE SALE
SATURDAY, MARCH 23rd**

In preparation for our **Palm Sunday Food & Bake Sale** which will be held on Saturday, March 23rd. **The following are the dates for making pierogi:**

- | |
|---|
| Thurs. 2/29 – Preparing ingredients. |
| Fri. 3/1 - Preparing balls. |
| Sat. 3/2 – Potato & Cheese - (single batch). |
| Cheese – (single batch). |

- | |
|---|
| Thurs. 3/7 - Prep ingredients. |
| Fri. 3/8 - Preparing balls. |
| Sat. 3/9 - Cabbage - (Single batch). |

The following is the schedule for making galabki:

- | |
|--|
| Tues. 3/19 - Coring and cooking cabbage leaves. |
| Wed. 3/20- Preparing meat mixture/ lining of pans. |
| Thur. 3/21 – Assembling galabki (stuffed cabbage). |
| Fri. 3/22 – Packaging galabki. |

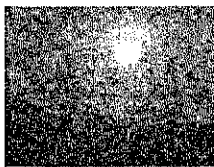
The following is the schedule for making apple pies:

- | |
|--|
| Thurs. 3/21 – Preparation of apples. |
| Friday 3/22 – Baking & packaging apple pies. |

We are also asking for donations of baked goods, including cakes, pies and cookies.

As this is one of our largest annual events, I call upon all of our parishioners and friends to help make this event successful. In the Parish hall, there are sign-up sheets for your consideration.

In addition, we ask for your help and assistance in donating towards our raffle. Please see Sue Dibrindisi with your donations and for more information.



A MORNING DEVOTIONAL

At the time of prayer, the following is said:

Lord, come to my assistance. Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be world without end. Amen.

OPENING HYMN

Now thank we all our God,
With heart and hands and voices,
Who wondrous things has done,
In whom His world rejoices;
Who from our mothers' arms
Has blessed us on our way
With countless gifts of love,
And still is ours today.

All praise and thanks to God,
The Father now be given,
The Son and Spirit blest,
Who reigns in highest heaven,
Eternal Triune God,
Whom earth and heaven adore;
For thus it was, is now,
And shall be ever more.

A DEVOTIONAL READING

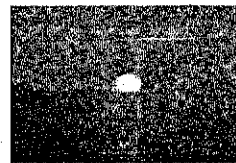
(Hebrews 13:20-21)

Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in you that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

(Time for personal reflection and prayer)

CLOSING PRAYER

Lord, We praise you with our lips, and with our lives and hearts. Our very existence is a gift from you; to you we offer all that we have and are. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, Your Son, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.



AN EVENING DEVOTIONAL

At the time of prayer, the following is said:

Lord, come to my assistance. Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be world without end. Amen.

OPENING HYMN

O Christ, You are the light and day,
Which drives away the night.
The ever-shining Sun of God
And pledge of future light.

As now the ev'ning shadow fall,
Please grant us, Lord, we pray.
A quiet night to rest in You,
Until the break of day.

Remember us, poor mortal men,
We humbly ask, O Lord,
And may your presence in our souls,
Be now our great reward.

A DEVOTIONAL READING

(Ephesians 2:13-16)

But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near in the blood of Christ. For He is our peace, who has made us both one, and has broken down the dividing wall of hostility by abolishing in His flesh the law of commandments and ordinances, that He might create in Himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby bringing all hostility to an end.

(Time for personal reflection and prayer)

CLOSING PRAYER

Father, Yours is the morning and Yours is the evening. Let the Sun of Justice, Jesus Christ, shine forever in my heart and draw me to the light where You live in radiant beauty. May Your blessed angels guard and protect me and all my loved ones who I keep close in my heart this night. All of this I ask through Jesus Christ, Your Son, and my Lord. Amen.