



Mass Intentions

First Sunday of Lent
February 14, 2016

Saturday – Feb 13th – St Catherine de Ricci

4:00PM – Edward J. Ferenchak
by Mark, Robyn and Megan Berner
7:00PM – Jerry Boyle
by Mary Ann Hauser

Sunday – Feb 14th – 1st Sunday of Lent

8:30AM – Kurt W. Gerhard
by Kathleen and Joe Billie
10:30AM – Richard J. Lloyd
by Barry and Peggy Bozzone

Monday – Feb 15th – St Claude de la Colombiere

8:00AM – William Dinbokowitz, Sr.
by Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Fatula

Tuesday – Feb 16th – St Onesimus

8:00AM – Edward J. Ferenchak
by Agnes Chabak

Miraculous Medal Novena after Mass

Wednesday – Feb 17th –

The Seven Holy Founders of the Servite Order

6:00PM – Joan Patterson (B)
by Irene Vomero

Thursday – Feb 18th – St Simon of Jerusalem

8:00AM – Richard J. Longenhagen, Sr. (B)
by Judy and Joe Behum

Friday – Feb 19th – St Conrad of Piacenza

8:00AM – Charles J. McCarty, Jr.
by Kathleen and Peggy

Saturday – Feb 20th – St Eucherius

8:00AM – All St John Fisher Parishioners
4:00PM – Donna L. McNally (A)
by Scott and Edie Stahlnecker
7:00PM – Msgr. Edward W. Sarzynski
by Rev. Eric J. Gruber

Sunday – Feb 21st – 2nd Sunday of Lent

8:30AM – Jane Kleckner Snyder/Dougherty Family
by Kathleen and Marirose
10:30AM – Ann and Glen Oswald
by Daughter, Louise



Pray the Rosary each Sunday:
8:15AM and 10:15AM

PASTOR'S CORNER

The “Aha!” Moment

Fyodor Dostoyevsky wrote in *The Brothers Karamazov*,

Alyosha did not step on the steps, but went down rapidly. His soul, overflowing with rapture, was craving for freedom and unlimited space. The vault of heaven, studded with softly shining stars, stretched wide and vast over him. From the zenith to the horizon the Milky Way stretched its two arms dimly across the sky. The fresh, motionless, still night enfolded the earth. The white towers and golden domes of the cathedral gleamed against the sapphire sky.... The silence of the earth seemed to merge into the silence of the heavens, the mystery of the earth came in contact with the mystery of the stars.... Alyosha stood, gazed, and suddenly he threw himself down flat upon the earth.

He did not know why he was embracing it. He could not have explained to himself why he longed so irresistibly to kiss it, to kiss it all, but he kissed it, weeping, sobbing and drenching it with his tears, and vowed frenziedly to love it, to love it for ever and ever. Water the earth with the tears of your gladness and love those tears, it rang in his soul. What was he weeping over? Oh, he was weeping in his rapture even over those stars which were shining for him from the abyss of space and he was not ashamed of that ecstasy. It was as though the threads from all those innumerable worlds of God met all at once in his soul, and it was trembling all over as it came in contact with other worlds. He wanted to forgive everyone and for everything, and to beg forgiveness – oh! not for himself, but for all and for everything, and others are begging for me, it echoed in his soul again. But with every moment he felt clearly and almost palpably that something firm and immovable, like the firmament itself, was entering his soul. A sort of idea was gaining an ascendancy over his mind – and that for the rest of his life, for ever and ever. He had fallen upon earth a weak youth, but he rose from it a resolute fighter for the rest of his

life, and he realized and felt it suddenly, at the very moment of his rapture. And never, never for the rest of his life could Alyosha forget that moment.

Teachers, preachers, and other communicators used to speak about enjoying the “aha!” moment for their students/disciples/listeners – that moment when the substance of what is being communicated is received and accepted, when “the light goes on.” What if that “aha!” moment could be eternal? Happy Lent, Fr. Eric.



LENTEN STATIONS OF THE CROSS
will be held every Friday in Lent, followed by Evening Prayers with Benediction, at 7:00PM.

LENTEN OBLIGATIONS

Church law considers every Friday in the season of Lent as penitential days and times. The practice of penance is a part of our faith and Catholic life. When we do penance, we imitate Jesus, who Himself recommended it as necessary to His followers, and gave them the example of His prayer and fasting. Our Lenten obligations include abstinence and fasting. **Abstinence** from meat is observed on Ash Wednesday, all Fridays in Lent, and Good Friday for all Catholics 14 years of age and older. **Fasting** is observed on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday by all Catholics who are 18 years of age but not yet 59. Those bound by this rule may take only one full, meatless meal a day. Two smaller, meatless, meals are permitted as necessary to maintain strength according to one's needs, but eating solid foods between meals is not permitted.

OFFERTORY COLLECTION



Plate Collection \$4,482.50
Fuel Collection \$3,657.00

The **Second Collection** this weekend, **February 13th and 14th**, will be for the **Catholic Home Missions**.

At all the Masses next weekend, **February 20th and 21st**, there will be representatives from the **Knights of Columbus** accepting donations for their **Pro-Life Campaign**.



NEXT WEEK'S SCHEDULE

	Servers	Lectors	E.Ministers
4:00PM	A.Muschko D.Sullivan	K.McCloskey	J.McAllister
7:00PM	N.Ruda L.Ruda	J.Englert	J.Yanek
8:30AM	S.Popovic D.Popovic	E.Snyder	Deacon Jack
10:30AM	C.Ritter M.Ritter	J.DeLong	Deacon Jack

Flowers were placed on the altar last weekend in honor of **Gene and Jeanette Koncz on their 60th Wedding Anniversary**.



Strudel for Your Easter Table

The Easter Strudels are for sale and are made by *Country Cottage Bake Shop* in Tamaqua. Orders are due by **Sunday, March 6th**, via the weekend collection basket, and delivery is **Wednesday, March 23rd, from 5:00pm to 7:00pm** in the church hall. Cost is \$15.00 per roll. Any questions, call Mary Beth at 610-264-4494 or Peggy at 610-264-0307.

NAME _____ PHONE # _____
Nut: _____ Poppyseed: _____ Lekvar: _____
Apricot: _____ Raspberry: _____ Total: \$ _____

DONUT SUNDAY

Next Sunday, **February 21st**, is **Donut Sunday**. Thank you to **The Snyder Family** who is sponsoring this month's event. Please stop by after the **8:30AM and 10:30AM Masses** for some coffee, tea, and some donuts!



Young at Heart

The next meeting of St John Fisher's Young at Heart will be held on **Wednesday, February 24th**, at 1:00PM in the Church Social Hall.

The next Casino trip to the Mohegan Sun will be on **Friday, February 26th**. The bus leaves the church parking lot at **10:00AM**. The price is \$22.00 per person. For more information, call Bill Molchany, 610-264-0920.

PARISH RETREAT

You are invited to attend the St. John Fisher One-Day Parish Retreat on **Saturday, March 12th** at the St. Michael Center on Main Street in Northampton. **The day will begin with Registration at 8:00am and will conclude with a 4:00pm Mass.** Continental Breakfast and Lunch will be provided. Come join your Parish Family and experience a closer relationship with God this Lenten Season. Fill out the below form and place in the collection basket by **Sunday, February 28th**.

PARISH RETREAT REGISTRATION FORM

Name: _____ Phone: _____
Suggested Donation - \$20.00
Attending: _____ Total Enclosed: \$ _____



FIRST PENANCE

Our Sacramental Class is preparing for the Sacrament of Penance, which they will receive for the first time on **Thursday, February 25th at 7:00PM**. Please keep our students in your prayers as they continue their preparation and receive the Sacrament of Penance.



St. John Fisher Fish Dinner

We will be hosting our Fish Dinner on **Friday, February 26th, from 4:00pm to 7:00pm**. The platter includes: breaded haddock, choice of parsley potatoes or halushkie, corn, creamed cabbage, applesauce, dessert and beverage. Cost is Adults: \$10.00, Children (Ages 5 to 10): \$5.00. Tickets will be sold before and after Masses, or call 610-264-3384. Tickets at the door will be \$10.50.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Volunteers are needed for the upcoming Fish Dinner. Help is requested for **Thursday, February 25th, at 6:00pm** to assist with preparation of food, setting up tables, preparing take home containers, etc., and on **Friday, February 26th, at 2:00pm** to start cooking, finishing set up, cutting baked goods, etc., and after 4:00pm to assist with serving food, doing dishes, busing tables and end of night cleanup.

BAKED GOODS

Parishioners are asked to bake desserts for the Annual Fish Dinner. Desserts can be dropped off in the church hall either on **Thursday, February 25th, from 6:00pm to 8:00pm** or on **Friday, February 26th, after 2:00pm**.

SCHOOL HALL PIEROGIES

Don't forget to save time on **Saturday, March 5th**, to help make our scrumptious pierogies. This is our one and only time we are making them this Lent. Pierogies will only be sold to help.



SLOVAK FOUNDATION

Envelopes are available at the church entrances to use for donations to the Slovak Foundation, which benefits the unifying and promotion of Slovak ethnic identity for second, third, fourth generations and beyond. Please deposit your donation in the collection basket by **Sunday, February 28th**.

Good Shepherd CYO

Join them for their Spaghetti Dinner and Chinese Auction on **Saturday, February 27th, from 5:00pm to 8:00pm**. All you can eat Spaghetti with homemade sauce, meatballs, salad, bread, beverage and dessert buffet. Any questions, call Dave at 610.502.1950.

St. John the Baptist Church 924 N. Front St, Allentown

Valentine's Day Dance with the Steel City Band with Bobby Molchan on **Saturday, February 20th**. Tickets are just \$5.00, and it includes snacks.

Meat Bingo on **Sunday, February 21st**. Doors and kitchen open at 12:00 noon and bingo begins at 1:00pm. Any questions, call Bill Drost at 610.432.3505.