



PASTOR'S CORNER

The “Aha!” Moment [revised and reprised]

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.

Mass Intentions

The Third Sunday of Lent
March 23, 2019

Saturday– Mar 23rd –

The Third Sunday of Lent

Sat Vigil: 4:00PM – Robert L. Strohl
by Jean Marhefka

7:00PM – Rosemarie Schmidt (A)
by Family

Sunday – Mar 24th –

8:30AM – Phyllis S. Roman
by Bernie and Dorothy Madeja

10:30AM – Rev. Joseph J. Campion
by Jean Marhefka and Family

Monday – Mar 25th – Annunciate of Our Lord

8:00AM – Elizabeth Arnold
by Daniel D’Amico

Tuesday – Mar 26th – St Margaret Clitherow

8:00AM – Margaret C. O’Donnell
by McCloskey Family

Wednesday – Mar 27th – St Rupert of Salzburg

6:00PM – Peggy Stoitsits
by Pauline Albert

Thursday – Mar 28th – Pope St Sixtus III

8:00AM – Laura Piccone
by Colleen McCloskey

Friday–Mar 29th – Ss Barachisius and Jonas

8:00AM – Poor Souls in Purgatory
by McCloskey Family

Saturday– Mar 30th – St John Climacus

8:00AM – All St. John Fisher Parishioners

The Fourth Sunday of Lent

Sat Vigil: 4:00PM – James Koncz (B)
by Son, Gene

7:00PM – Mary and Robert Doyle
by Frank and Carol Weber

Sunday – Mar 31st –

8:30AM – Agnes and Homer Collis
by Family

10:30AM – Jane Croslic
by Kim McCloskey



Pray the Rosary Sundays
8:15AM and 10:15AM

And never, never for the rest of his life could Alyosha forget that moment.

Teachers, preachers, and other communicators used to speak about engendering 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.” I pray that the personal penances we have taken on this Lenten season will give us an “aha!” moment with the Lord.
 Keeping Lent, Fr. Eric.

OFFERTORY COLLECTION



Plate Collection \$3,843.00
Self-Denial Collection \$1,325.00
 The **Second** Collection this weekend, **March 23rd** and **24th**, is the **Rice Bowl Collection**.



NEXT WEEK'S SCHEDULE

	Servers	Lectors	E.Ministers
4:00PM	J.Drummer D.Gorr	J.Strohl	J.McAllister
7:00PM	L.Ruda N.Ruda	P.McCarty	J.Behum
8:30AM	D.Popovic M.Popovic	B.Molchany	C.Molchany
10:30AM	K.Gair L.McGinley	B.Bozzone	L.Bolmer

ST. JOSEPH THE WORKER

1879 Applewood Drive, Orefield

AN EVENING OF DIVINE MERCY

† Exposition † Adoration † Chaplet of Divine Mercy †

All are welcome to join us for this free event on **Thursday, April 11th, from 7:00pm to 9:00pm**. A Lenten Reflection by **Sister Gaudia Skass, OLM**, who was born and raised in Poland, and made her perpetual profession of vows with the Congregation of the Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy. No registration is required.

AVAILABLE MASSES

We currently have weekday masses available for 2019. If you would like a mass said for a loved one, please call the rectory at 610-264-1972, to have one scheduled.



LENTEN STATIONS OF THE CROSS

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

ADULT CONFIRMATION

Bishop Schlert will celebrate the **Noon Mass on Pentecost Sunday, June 9th**, at the **Cathedral of Saint Catharine of Siena**, Allentown, within which he will confirm adults of our Diocese. *Those to be confirmed are adults who were baptized in the Roman Catholic Church, received their First Holy Communion, are catechized, but never confirmed.* Please contact the rectory to discuss registration details.



EASTER CONFESSIONS

Saturday, March 30 + 2:00pm to 3:45pm
 Sunday, March 31 + 12:30pm to 2:00pm
 Thursday, April 11 + 6:30pm to 8:00pm
 Monday, April 15 + 6:00pm to 8:00pm



LENTEN OBLIGATIONS

Our Lenten obligations include abstinence and fasting. **Abstinence** from meat is observed on all Fridays in Lent for all Catholics 14 years of age and older.

Strudel Roll Sale

We are sponsoring an Easter Strudel Sale. The strudels are made by *Country Cottage Bake Shop* in Tamaqua. Orders are due by **Sunday, April 7th**, via the collection basket. Cost is \$16.00 a roll, and available in the flavors listed below. Delivery is **Wednesday, April 17th, from 5:00pm to 7:00pm** in the church hall. Any questions, call Mary Beth at 610-264-4494 or Peggy at 610-264-0307.

 NAME _____ PHONE # _____

Nut: _____ Poppyseed: _____ Lekvar: _____ Apricot: _____

Raspberry: _____ Coconut Cream: _____ **Total: \$** _____

40 DAYS FOR LIFE™

The 40 Days for Life Prayer Campaign started on **Ash Wednesday, March 6th**, and continues through **April 14th**, at the Allentown Planned Parenthood, 29 N. 9th St., Allentown, PA. **Join us, Monday through Saturday, 7:00am to 7:00pm.** When prayer volunteers are praying the no show rate for abortions can jump as high as 75%! For more information, or to be paired with a prayer partner, call Maryanne at 610-570-2347.

St Mary's Church

122 Union Street, Catty

Their Basket Social will be held on **Friday, March 29th**, from **6:00pm to 9:00pm**, **Saturday, March 30th**, from **9:00am to 7:00pm**, and **Sunday, March 31st**, from **9:00am to 1:00pm**. You can purchase tickets at the door, and you don't have to be present to win.

They will also be having **TWO Lenten Dinners on Friday, April 5th and April 12th**, from **4:30pm to 7:00pm**. With their menu, you can choose from freshly hand-breaded fan tail shrimp, or a pan seared cod platter. Each platter comes with a choice of one starch: parsley buttered potatoes, mac and cheese or cabbage and noodles; and also a choice of one side: stewed tomatoes, creamed cabbage, or apple sauce. All platters are \$13.00, and include a roll, corn or green beans, Jell-O cake, and beverage. Soda is available but will be an extra charge. Mac & Cheese and cabbage and noodle platters are also available in place of fish. Kiddie Platters are \$7.00 for ages 4 to 10, and include mac & cheese, green beans or corn, applesauce, roll and Jell-O cake. For advanced tickets to guarantee your main entree (shrimp or cod), please send payment payable to St. Mary's along with a self-addressed stamped envelope. Please feel free to call 610-264-0332 or, kim.stmarys122@gmail.com with questions.

Solemnity of the Annunciation of Our Lord



The Annunciation heralds the beginning of our salvation. At Mary's obedient *Fiat*, humanity is wedded to divinity. "In Jesus, God has placed, in the midst of barren, despairing mankind, a new beginning which is not a product of human history but a gift from above" (Pope Benedict XVI). All that our heart cries out for became flesh in Mary's womb.

When we repeat the words of the angel by praying the Hail Mary, the Word of God germinates in our soul. We are Christians because of what God *announced* to the Blessed Virgin Mary. ~ Magnificat, March, 2019

Young at Heart

The Young at Heart of BVM Church in Northampton will be going on an overnight bus trip to Dover, Delaware on **Wednesday, April 24th**, and **Thursday, April 25th**. You do not have to be a member to come along with us. For information and tickets call Louise at 610.262.6308 or Bella at 610.262.2673.

St. Elizabeth's Church

435 Pershing Blvd, Fullerton

Tired of fish on Fridays? How about chicken on Thursday!! We have the perfect dinner for you. Tickets are available for their **Drive-Thru Chicken Dinner** which will be held on **Thursday April 4th**, from **4:30pm to 6:30pm**. The dinners are fully prepared by Fairview House Catering. The meal includes a half chicken, vegetable, baked potato, coleslaw, roll, butter and dessert. Advanced tickets are a must and the **price is \$12.00 per meal**. Call Mary Spieker or e-mail for tickets, 610-266-0695 ext. 208 or dirreled@sercc.org. Easy pick-up! Drive into the parking lot at and we will hand you your order!