



## First Sunday of Lent February 22, 2015

### **Saturday – February 21<sup>st</sup> – St Peter Damian**

4:00PM – Frank Sidor (A)

by Wife, Helen Sidor

7:00PM – Joseph Chabak and Daniel Dopsovic

by Wife and Sister, Agnes Chabak

### **Sunday – February 22<sup>nd</sup> – 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Lent**

8:30AM – Memorial Fund Members

by The Memorial Fund

10:30AM – Donna McNally

by Edie and Scott Stahlnecker

### **Monday – February 23<sup>rd</sup> – St Polycarp**

8:00AM – Charles J McCarty, Jr

by Kathleen and Peggy

### **Tuesday – February 24<sup>th</sup> – St Ethelbert**

8:00AM – Martha E Garber

by Aspasia, Rena, Eugenia & Family

#### ***Miraculous Medal Novena after Mass***

### **Wednesday – February 25<sup>th</sup> – St Tarasius**

6:00PM – Isabell K Dopsovic

by Kim McCloskey

### **Thursday – February 26<sup>th</sup> – St Porphyrius**

8:00AM – Pauline Mayer

by Pauline Albert

7:00PM – **The Sacrament of Penance**

### **Friday – February 27<sup>th</sup> – St Gabriel of**

#### **Our Lady of Sorrows**

8:00AM – Vincent Rivetti

by Jack and Joanne O'Connell

### **Saturday – February 28<sup>th</sup> – St Hilary**

8:00AM – All St John Fisher Parishioners

4:00PM – Donald Mulberger

by Pat Mulberger

7:00PM – Petie Muschko (B)

by Mom and Dad

### **Sunday – March 1<sup>st</sup> – 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Lent**

8:30AM – Marlene Vaughn

by Arthur and Mary Jane Steffie

10:30AM – Mary Cerulli (A)

by Peggy McCarty

## PASTOR'S CORNER

### The War Within (and the Nuclear Option)

The first shot fired is too distant a memory to be easily recalled, but the war had a beginning. The pendulum was set in motion – pushed or “let-go-of” it makes no difference. Futility and acquiescence exchanged places with hope and surrender when faced with fearful ends, threatening means, and faith in Jesus Christ.

Behind enemy lines He stole through Incarnation, and loosened the vice grip of evil and the devil's whispered “certainties.” In relative obscurity, plain and simple, He lived among us – subject to despairing politics, economics, civics and religion. And, unlike us, He surrendered completely to the Father.

The desert refined Him and seemed to propel Him forward among us with a resolute prophecy of God's faithfulness, good-will, and mercy. But it was the Spirit that compelled Him and drew Him onwards; from Galilee to Tabor to Jerusalem to Golgotha to a tomb in which the pendulum stopped.

And, if this was all, we would be justified in despairing of ourselves, in giving in to the constant nagging temptation of working only on our own little worlds' happiness and pleasures. The turning of the war had not yet come, and the resignation to the slothful habits of sin seemed an adequate blanket.

Then the explosion of living light which cast a shadow on the big bang itself sprang forth from the earth, from a garden, behind a large stone. Jesus Risen radiated in every direction; hope fell from Him onto everything and everyone. Surrender to the Father is the way to new life – through prayer, fasting and charity.

Let the world despair of itself, consuming its' fears as food, but let the love of God shine and nourish the doubtful. Let the heart's selfishness acquiesce to a bottomless pit of desire, but let the love of God shine and lift the wayward. Let the pendulum swing away from dark to light to dark again, but let the love of God shine and bring forth the eternal dawn!

There's plenty to be worried and upset about these days. For Lent, be hope-filled.  
Fr. Eric.



**Pray the Rosary each  
Sunday:**

8:15AM and 10:15AM

## OFFERTORY COLLECTION



**Plate Collection** \$3,111.05  
**Ash Wednesday Collection** \$1,366.00

The **Second Collection** today, **February 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>**, is for the **Catholic Home Missions Appeal**.



## NEXT WEEK'S SCHEDULE

	<b>Servers</b>	<b>Lectors</b>	<b>E.Ministers</b>
<b>4:00PM</b>	S.DeLong A.Muschko	J.Englert	J.O'Connell
<b>7:00PM</b>	C.Gair D.Gair	P.McCarty	J.Yanek
<b>8:30AM</b>	D.Popovic M.Popovic	E.Snyder	C.Hetzel
<b>10:30AM</b>	C.Ritter M.Ritter	J.DeLong	J.Heffner

## FIRST PENANCE

Our Sacramental Class is preparing for the Sacrament of Penance, which they will receive for the first time **this Thursday, February 26<sup>th</sup> at 7:00PM**.

Part of their Sacramental preparation is to perform community service, which they do by way of a Holy Hour on the First Saturday in February, March and April where they pray the Fatima prayers, the Rosary and the prayers the Angel gave to the children. They also say prayers for the Poor Souls in Purgatory, and on March 7<sup>th</sup>, they will pray the Stations of the Cross.

Please remember our students in your prayers.

## Young at Heart

The next meeting of St John Fisher's Young at Heart will be held on **Wednesday, February 25<sup>th</sup>**, at 1:00PM in the Parish Hall.

The next Casino trip to Mount Airy will be **Friday, February 28<sup>th</sup>**. 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.

## SLOVAK FOUNDATION

This weekend, **Saturday, February 21<sup>st</sup> and Sunday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>**, is the final weekend to turn in an envelope for the Slovak Foundation. The Foundation benefits the unifying and promotion of Slovak ethnic identity for second, third, fourth generations and beyond. Please mark the envelope with your name and envelope number to ensure credit for your contribution.

## LENTEN STATIONS OF THE CROSS



**Wednesdays following  
6:00PM Mass**

**Fridays with Benediction,  
at 7:00PM**

## LENTEN OBLIGATIONS

**Abstinence** from meat, including poultry, 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.

All Catholics are obliged to fulfill their **Easter Duty**. They are required to receive Holy Communion during the Easter Season, which is from the first Sunday of Lent, February 22<sup>nd</sup>, until Trinity Sunday, May 31<sup>st</sup>. Those conscious of serious sin are reminded of the obligation to confess their sins at least once a year during this time.



## Attention: Men of St. John Fisher's Parish!

There will be a men's prayer group starting **Wednesday, February 25, 2015 at 7:00pm** after the Stations of the Cross

in the Church hall. This will give the men time to pray together and enhance their spirituality and learn more about our faith. If you are interested, please call Jack O'Connell at 610-266-0689.

## Nut Roll for Your Easter Table?

Or something just as yummy? We are now accepting orders for **Strudel Rolls** from the *Country Cottage Bake Shop* in Tamaqua to be picked up **April 1<sup>st</sup>**.

Cost for each strudel roll is \$15 payable with the order form which must be received by **March 15<sup>th</sup>**, by way of the Sunday collection basket. Any questions, call Mary Beth at 610-264-4494 or Peggy at 610-264-0307. **Order forms with the available flavors are available at the church entrances.**



## MOHEGAN SUN CASINO

Bus trip on **Thursday, March 26<sup>th</sup>**. Bus departs at 9:30am from the former St Joseph's on Newport Avenue in Northampton, arriving at the casino at 11:00am. Departure for home is at 4:00pm with arrival back in Northampton at 5:30pm. Price per person is \$25.00 and includes motor coach transportation, \$20.00 slot play and \$5.00 food voucher. Call Marge Heffner at 610-262-3174 or Elsie at 610-349-6998 for more information.



## LENTEN FISH DINNER

St. John Fisher Church will be hosting a Fish Dinner on **Friday, March 13<sup>th</sup>, from 4:00pm to 7:00pm**. The platter includes: breaded haddock, choice of parsley potatoes or halushkie, creamed cabbage, corn, applesauce, dessert and beverage. Cost is Adults: \$10.00, (\$10.50 at the door), Children (Ages 5 to 10): \$5.00. Tickets will be sold before and after Masses or call 610-264-3384. Tickets can also be purchased at the door.

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Volunteers are needed for the upcoming Fish Dinner. Help is requested for **Thursday, March 12<sup>th</sup>, at 6:00pm** to assist with preparation of food, setting up tables, preparing take home containers, etc. On **Friday, March 13<sup>th</sup> 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 clean up.

## 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, March 12<sup>th</sup> between 6:00pm and 8:00pm** or on **Friday, March 13<sup>th</sup> after 2:00pm**.

## *IN THE WORDS OF...*

"Lent comes providentially to reawaken us, to shake us from our lethargy."  
~ Pope Francis

## ATTENTION:

The Rectory Office will be closed this week to all regular business.

## Ladies' Night Out

The Social Committee of our parish is sponsoring a **Ladies' Night Out, Friday, April 10<sup>th</sup>** beginning at 6:00pm in the Parish Hall. **Registration forms that detail the evening are available at the church entrances.** Reservations must be made by **March 22<sup>nd</sup>**, by filling out a registration form and making payment by way of the Sunday collection basket. Any questions? Please call Mary Beth McGinley at 610-264-4494 or Peggy McCarty at 610-264-0307.

We especially welcome the help of hearty gentlemen of the parish at the Ladies Night Out who would be willing to serve dinner and clean-up. If interested, call Mary Beth or Peggy at the numbers above. Thanks.

## CHURCH HALL PIEROGIES

Preparation will start on **Sunday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>, starting at 12:00pm** until potatoes have been completed. Making of pierogies will be done on **Monday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>, starting at 2:00pm**. All help would be greatly appreciated, and no experience is necessary, plus it's a great way to meet your fellow parishioners.

Orders can be picked up **after 6:00pm on Monday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>**.

## SCHOOL HALL PIEROGIES

Don't forget to save time on **Saturday, March 7<sup>th</sup>**, to help make our scrumptious pierogies. This is our one and only time we are them this Lent. Pierogies will only be sold to help. See you on March 7<sup>th</sup>!