



Lent

Mass Intentions

Third Sunday of Lent

March 8, 2015

Saturday – March 7th – Ss Perpetua and Felicity

4:00PM – Mary E Kalamar
by Ed and Lucille Ferenchak
7:00PM – Dick Banach
by Peggy McCarty

Sunday – March 8th – 3rd Sunday of Lent

8:30AM – Joseph J Holena
by Chuck and Sue Albert
10:30AM – Harold Bryan (B)
by Sheila Weider

Monday – March 9th – St Frances of Rome

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

Tuesday – March 10th – Forty Martyrs/Sebaste

8:00AM – The Poor Souls in Purgatory
by Irene Vomero

Miraculous Medal Novena after Mass

Wednesday – March 11th – St Eulogius

6:00PM – Margaret and John Nicholas
by Great Grand-daughter, Elizabeth Gontkosky

Thursday – March 12th – St Theophanes

8:00AM – Edith Longenbach
by Sam McCarty

Friday – March 13th – St Euphrasia

8:00AM – Robert Spengler and Bernadine Wehr
by Ann and Dale

Saturday – March 14th – St Matilda

8:00AM – All St John Fisher Parishioners
4:00PM – Mary Cerulli
by Bill, Dee and the Knerr Family
7:00PM – Bernard Cunningham (A)
by Margaret Bossons and Family

Sunday – March 15th – 4th Sunday of Lent

8:30AM – Joseph Tomasic
by Wife and Family
10:30AM – Scott A McCloskey (A)
by Family

PRAY



Sundays

8:15AM and 10:15AM

PASTOR'S CORNER

Swimming With the Deeper Current

We “modern” people in 2015 often look puzzled when asked to deliberately choose Lenten penances that “give something up,” that deprive us of some usual comfort or pleasure. And while we know that most of the things we give up for Lent, e.g. candy, sweets, movies, computer games, potato chips, alcoholic beverages, complaining, talking idly, noisiness, etc..., are actually *luxuries* for past generations, we still find it too difficult very often to go without these “normal” parts of our lives. It is important, however, that we do these little sacrifices of daily “taken-for-granted” things, so as to open ourselves to the radical teachings of Christ regarding dependence on the Father, forgiveness of others, repentance for our sins, and the love of enemies. These teachings are the deeper current, much deeper and stronger current than the tides in which we usually swim and drift.

The usual tides of our modern lives are busy-ness, consumerism, power/control, fear and security, pleasures of body/mind/spirit, entertainment. But underneath all this is the deeper current wherein the Lord pulls and draws a person-so-disposed to find Him in the midst of all the tides of life. Thomas Merton writes,

Many religious people, who say they love God, detest and fear the very thought of a poverty that is real enough to mean insecurity, hunger, dirt. And yet you will find those who go down and live among the poor not because they love God (in whom they do not believe) or even because they love the poor, but simply because they hate the rich and want to stir up the poor to hate the rich too. If people can suffer these things for the venomous pleasure of hatred, why do so few become poor out of love?

Bodily penances (sacrifices and discipline) are a necessary thing for the willing disciple, because they put us in touch with our real motives (our steering currents) in the waters of this life. Penance lay bare for us (who grow silent and still enough to see them) the reasons we do what we do, please whom we please, and seek what we seek. To swim with the deeper current is to learn to yield to the love of God and to love God and others full-heartedly in return. It's hard to believe, I know, that giving up candy or entertainment for Lent can be a doorway to the love of God. But, then again, we profess faith in a Crucified and Risen Lord! One must “give up” to make room for something, some *ONE*, more.

Desiring to be poor to be rich in Him,
Fr. Eric.

OFFERTORY COLLECTION



Plate Collection \$ 4,909.50

The **Second Collection** this weekend, **March 7th** and **8th** is the **Rice Bowl Collection**.

The **Second Collection** on **March 14th** and **15th** will be for the **Easter Flowers**.



NEXT WEEK'S SCHEDULE

	Servers	Lectors	E.Ministers
4:00PM	A.Gorr D.Gorr	B.Molchany	J.McAllister
7:00PM	C.Gair D.Gair	J.Yanek	P.McCarty
8:30AM	M.Popovic S.Popovic	E.Snyder	J.O'Connell
10:30AM	J.Drummer H.Heffner	B.Petro	L.Bolmer

The Living Stations



This year, the Living Stations will be performed **twice** at St. John Fisher Parish – **Palm Sunday, March 29th** at **7:00pm** to help us all enter Holy Week, and on **Good**

Friday, April 3rd at **7:00pm** to help us pray this most solemn day of the year.

ST. JOHN FISHERS MENS PRAYER GROUP

Some of the men of the parish met as a group for the first time on Wednesday 25th to pray together and enrich our prayer life. We have decided to meet on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month. Our next prayer meeting will be on **March 11th** after 6:00pm Mass and Stations. All men of the parish are welcome! Any questions call Jack O'Connell 610-266-0689.

"THE WAY OF THE CROSS" FREE CONCERT

Notre Dame Catholic Church, 1861 Catasauqua Road in Bethlehem is sponsoring a **FREE** concert, featuring world-renowned Catholic Singer, Donna Cori Gibson on **Sunday, March 15, 2015, at 8:00pm** in the Church. The concert, a video/concert experience – "*The Way of the Cross*" is a meditation accompanied by a powerful video for each of the 14 Stations of the Cross. (*There will be a free-will offering at the concert*).

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 22nd, until Trinity Sunday, May 31st. Those conscious of serious sin are reminded of the obligation to confess their sins at least once a year during this time.

LENT

EWTN LENTEN FACTS

The word "**lent**" means "**lengthen**" and stands for that time in spring when the days grow longer.

The **original period of Lent was 40 hours**. It was spent fasting to commemorate the suffering of Christ and the 40 hours He spent in the tomb. In the early 3rd century, Lent was lengthened to 6 days. About 800 AD it was changed to 40 days to commemorate the 40 days Christ spent in the wilderness.

Since **Lent is a penitential season of preparation for Easter**, the Stations of the Cross, which follow the path of Christ from Pontius Pilate's praetorium to Christ's tomb, have been a popular devotion. Tradition holds that our Blessed Mother visited daily the scenes of our Lord's passion.

After Constantine legalized Christianity in the year 312, the pathway of our Lord's passion was marked with its important stations. St. Jerome (342- 420), living in Bethlehem during the later part of his life, attested to the crowds of pilgrims from various countries who visited those holy places and followed the Way of the Cross.

In 1342, the Franciscans were appointed as guardians of the shrines of the Holy Land. In the 16th century, this pathway was officially entitled the "Via Dolorosa" (Sorrowful Way) or simply Way of the Cross or Stations of the Cross. When the Moslem Turks blocked the access to the Holy Land, reproductions of the Stations of the Cross were erected at popular spiritual centers.

LENTEN FISH DINNER

St. John Fisher Church' will be hosting a Fish Dinner **this Friday, March 13th, 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, (\$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 will be available at the door.

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

Parishioners are asked to bake desserts for the Annual Fish Dinner. Desserts can be dropped off in the Church Hall either on **Thursday, March 12th between 6:00pm and 8:00pm** or on **Friday, March 13th after 2:00pm**.

Save The Date!

It's time to round up your friends, family and co-workers! **Good Shepherd Catholic School** will be holding their **4th Annual Golf Outing** on **Saturday, May 9th 2015**, at Willow Brook Golf Course. If you have any questions contact Joe Heberling at 610-261-4864.

Young at Heart

The next bus trip will be on **Wednesday, March 18th**, to the Rainbow Dinner Theatre to see "*Squabbles*". The price is \$75.00 per person. A \$10.00 deposit is required. For more information, call Bill Molchany, 610-264-0920.

Ladies' Night Out

The Social Committee of our parish is sponsoring a **Ladies' Night Out, Friday, April 10th** 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 22nd**, 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.

MOHEGAN SUN CASINO

There is a bus trip on **Thursday, March 26th**. The 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 around 5:30pm. Price per person is \$25.00 and includes motor coach transportation, \$20 slot play and \$5 food voucher. Call Marge Heffner at 610-262-3174 or Elsie at 610-349-6998 for more information.

Nut Roll for Your Easter Table?

Next Sunday, **March 15th**, is the last chance to place your order by way of the collection basket. Cost for each strudel roll is \$15 payable with the order. 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.**

CAT'S MEOW OF ST ANDREW

Order forms are available at both church entrances or call 610-264-1225 to order. The Cat's Meow replicas make a great gift for anniversaries and birthdays, or as a special keepsake.