



*Ash Wednesday*  
*Remember that you are dust,*  
*and to dust you shall return.*  
—Ecclesiastes 3:20

## Mass Intentions

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time  
February 10, 2018

**Saturday – Feb 10<sup>th</sup> –**

**Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

Sat Vigil: 4:00PM – Helen Sidor  
by Deacon and Mrs. Jack O’Connell  
7:00PM – Gertrude “Trudy” McGonigle  
by McCarty Family

**Sunday – Feb 11<sup>th</sup> –**

8:30AM – Poor Souls in Purgatory  
by Irene Vomero  
10:30AM – Joseph J. Holena (A)  
by Pauline Feichtel

**Monday – Feb 12<sup>th</sup> – St Saturninus/Companions**

8:00AM – Edward J. Danko  
by Carl and Yvonne Rieker

**Tuesday – Feb 13<sup>th</sup> – St Catherine de Ricci**

8:00AM – Rev. Raymond P. Slezak  
by Rev. Eric J. Gruber

**Miraculous Medal Novena after Mass**

**Wednesday – Feb 14<sup>th</sup> – Ash Wednesday**

8:00AM – Daniel Leo Lynch, Sr.  
by Jim and Gina Costello  
12:05PM – Rose M. Todaro  
by Dolores O’Mara  
6:00PM – Kathleen A. McCloskey  
by Aggie Chabak

**Thursday – Feb 15<sup>th</sup> –**

**St Claude de la Colombiere**

8:00AM – Delight M. Casciano  
by Aurora Pasquariello

**Friday – Feb 16<sup>th</sup> – St Onesimus**

8:00AM – Daniel J. Danko  
by Diane Hirschman

**Saturday – Feb 17<sup>th</sup> –**

**The Seven Holy Founders of the Servite Order**

8:00AM – All St. John Fisher Parishioners

**First Sunday in Lent**

Sat Vigil: 4:00PM – Antone Zukowski  
by Wife, Frances  
7:00PM – Richard J. Longenhagen, Sr. (B)  
by Deacon and Mrs. Jack O’Connell

**Sunday – Feb 18<sup>th</sup> –**

8:30AM – Michael E. Voice  
by Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Voice  
10:30AM – Joan Patterson (B)  
by Irene Vomero

# PASTOR’S CORNER

## Are We Fans of Jesus or His Disciples

Theologian Edward Sri writes in his latest book, Into His Likeness,

“Trying to be good” is hard not just for little children, but also for us adult children of God, isn’t it? We *want* to be good Christians. We *want* to be more thoughtful with our spouses, more patient with our kids, more generous with our neighbors, more faithful to our time in prayer. But we struggle. We fall short. We don’t improve at the pace we’d like. ... Jesus draws near to those whom he loves. He presses in and wants to change us. He wants to do with us what he did with Matthew [the tax-collector]: shine his light on the dark corners of our souls and invite us to follow him more closely. Sometimes, we’re inspired by his invitation. Other times, we’re terrified by it. ... [In *The Joy of the Gospel*,] Pope Francis seems concerned that there are many Christians who do not regularly encounter Jesus in a personal relationship. Outwardly, we might say and do the right things. We show up at Mass. We put money in the collection basket. We say a prayer before meals. We go to a parish event every once in a while. We might even sing in the choir, attend a Bible study, or serve as a Eucharistic minister. All this is good, but inwardly, do we regularly encounter Our Lord Jesus who is calling us to take that next step of faith and inviting us into a deeper relationship with Him? ... For 108 years, my dear Chicago Cubs were the epitome of mediocrity. Yes, they finally won the World Series in 2016, but from 1908 to 2015 they were known as the beloved losers. As Cubs fans, every June we’d start saying the same three words: “Maybe next year.” If we happened to end a season at .500 we’d feel pretty good about ourselves. “Wow, we won half our games this year. Not bad!” And if we made the playoffs once every decade or so, that was quite the accomplishment. But the World Series? For the Cubs? No. That was only for the really good teams in Major League Baseball!

We Christians can sometimes adopt a similar attitude. If we believe in God, show up to Mass each week, give up something for Lent, try to be good to others, and maybe even volunteer for something at the parish, we feel pretty good about ourselves. We tell ourselves, "I go to church. I'm nice to people. I don't murder or rob banks. I'm doing okay as a Christian." But to strive to be a *great* Catholic? "No, that's not for me. That's only for the really holy people like Mother Teresa and the pope!"

No, being a *great* Catholic is the goal for every one of us. Including yourself and myself. Sign up now for the Adult Faith classes this March on Thursday evenings in which I'll walk us through, with the help of Dr. Sri, the foundational attitudes and practices of Catholics who take their discipleship of Jesus with the ultimate seriousness it deserves.  
Fr. Eric.



**February 14<sup>th</sup>** is Ash Wednesday. Masses will be celebrated at **8:00am, 12:05pm, and 6:00pm**. Blessed Ashes will be distributed at all the masses that day.



## LENTEN STATIONS OF THE CROSS

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

### 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. Eating solid foods between meals is not permitted.



Please remember in your prayers **Beatrice Annette (Stutsman) Fay**, who passed away and was buried. We pray her soul, and all the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

### Strudel Roll Sale

Once again we are sponsoring an Easter Strudel Sale. The strudels are made by *Country Cottage Bake Shop* in Tamaqua. Orders are due by **Sunday, March 11<sup>th</sup>**, via the collection basket. Cost is \$15.00 a roll, and available in the flavors listed below. Delivery is **Wednesday, March 28<sup>th</sup>**, 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: \_\_\_\_\_ Total: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### OFFERTORY COLLECTION



Plate Collection \$3,749.00  
Fuel Collection \$3,765.00

The **Second** Collection next weekend, **February 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>**, will be for the **Catholic Home Missions**.



### ASH WEDNESDAY SCHEDULE

	Servers	Lectors	E.Ministers
<b>8:00AM</b>	No One	P.McCarty	J.Marhefka
<b>12:05PM</b>	No One	J.Strohl	Deacon Jack
<b>6:00PM</b>	L.Ruda N.Ruda	K.McCloskey	Deacon Jack

### NEXT WEEK'S SCHEDULE

	Servers	Lectors	E.Ministers
<b>4:00PM</b>	J.Drummer A.Banoza	B.Molchany	J.McAllister
<b>7:00PM</b>	K.Segan A.Muschko	J.Englert	P.McCarty
<b>8:30AM</b>	D.Popovic M.Popovic	J.Strohl	Deacon Jack
<b>10:30AM</b>	C.Gair D.Gair	B.Petro	Deacon Jack



## SCHOOL HALL AND KITCHEN CLEAN UP

See you **Friday, February 16<sup>th</sup>**, beginning at **9:00am**, for our cleaning session. Remember your bucket and rags.



## SCHOOL HALL PIEROGIES

Come to the school hall on **Saturday March 10<sup>th</sup>**, ready to make our delicious Lenten pierogies. See you on the 10<sup>th</sup>!



## FIRST PENANCE

Our Sacramental Class is preparing for the Sacrament of Penance, which they will receive for the first time on **Thursday, February 22<sup>nd</sup> at 7:00PM**. Please keep our students in your prayers as they continue their preparation and receive the Sacrament of Penance.

## St. John the Baptist in Stiles

3120 Chestnut Street, Whitehall

Their Tricky Trays/Basket Social will be held on **Saturday, February 17<sup>th</sup>**, from **9:00am to 7:00pm** and **Sunday, February 18<sup>th</sup>**, from **9:00am to 4:00pm**.

## St. John the Baptist Church

924 N. Front Street, Allentown

Their Meat Bingo will be held on **Sunday, February 18<sup>th</sup>**, at **1:00pm**. Doors and kitchen open at 12:00 Noon.

# FISH



# FRY

## ST. JOHN FISHER FISH DINNER

We will be hosting our Fish Dinner on **Friday, February 23<sup>rd</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, Children (Ages 5 to 10) \$5.00. Tickets will be sold before and after Masses, or call Annette at 610-264-4758. Tickets at the door will be \$12.00.

## Volunteers Needed

Volunteers are needed for the upcoming Fish Dinner. Help is requested for **Thursday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>**, at **6:00pm** to assist with preparation of food, setting up tables, preparing take home containers, etc., and on **Friday, February 23<sup>rd</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 cleanup. Sign-up sheets can be found at both church entrances.

## Baked Goods

Parishioners are asked to bake desserts for our Annual Fish Dinner. Desserts can be dropped off in the church hall either on **Thursday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>**, from **6:00pm to 8:00pm** or on **Friday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>**, after **2:00pm**.



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