

Feb. 25<sup>th</sup> – March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2019

M: St Mary • J: St Joseph • Rc: rectory chapel

*Our bulletin covers several weeks!*

Feb 26 6pm •  
Feb 27 9am • *No*  
Feb 28 9am • *Mass*  
Mar 1 9am •

**March 2<sup>nd</sup> /March 3<sup>rd</sup> • 8<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time C •**

3:30pm • J † Arthur Carroll r/o Women of Grace  
5:15pm • M † Sally McNamee r/o Loretta Zienkiewicz  
8:15am • J † Michael Funanage r/o wife, Cecilia  
10:15am • M † ILM Sophie Kayes r/o daughter, Virginia Spudis

Mar 5 6pm • M † Robert J Smith  
Mar 6 9am • J Rc *No Mass*

*Ash  
Wednesday*

**March 6<sup>th</sup>**  
**6:00pm • J People of the Parish**  
**7:15pm • M People of the Parish**

Mar 7 9am • J Rc † Arthur Carroll r/o Roy & Dolores Gius  
**+Mar 8 9am • J Rc † Theodore Antonelli r/o Bob & Jeanette Fellin**  
**+ Stations of the Cross (M) @ 6:30pm**

**March 9<sup>th</sup>/March 10<sup>th</sup> • 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Lent •**

3:30pm • J † Bernard Leonard r/o Helen Mehalick & Donna Gulash  
5:15pm • M † Rose Aponick r/o Theresa Schreffler  
8:15am • J † Lewis & Gloria Horvath r/o The Family  
10:15am • M † John Zakavage r/o wife, Dolly



♦ **STEWARDSHIP:** M: 2/10:S: 1114; 2/17:S: 1237; Dues: 595; Bldg Fund: 49; Energy: 489 • J:2/10:S: 1088; 2/17:S: 1098; Dues: 120; Energy: 580

♦ **2019 Envelopes:** will be at the office for any parishioner who did not pick up their contributions envelopes or were missed. Please call the office.

♦ **Note:** At the direction of the diocese, due to the reported widespread flu outbreak, the greeting at the sign of peace and the ministry of the cup is suspended. Which leaves us to ask: why not assist at Holy Mass by serving/lecturing, ushering.

► **HOPE Ministry:** If you or someone you know in our community could use some temporary help with meals, errands, rides to church or appointments HOPE Ministry can help. HOPE Ministry is also seeking volunteers to help serve those in need. Call Nancy 215-801-5797 or Arlene 570-590-5810

‡ **Spiritual Reading**

**APOSTOLIC EXHORTATION GAUDETE ET EXSULTATE OF THE HOLY FATHER FRANCIS ON THE CALL TO HOLINESS IN TODAY'S WORLD**

**Chapter Two – Two Subtle Enemies of Holiness**

*The limits of reason*

43. It is not easy to grasp the truth that we have received from the Lord. And it is even more difficult to express it. So we cannot claim that our way of understanding this truth authorizes us to exercise a strict supervision over others' lives. Here I would note that in the Church there legitimately coexist different ways of interpreting many aspects of doctrine and Christian life; in their variety, they "help to express more clearly the immense riches of God's word". It is true that "for those who long for a monolithic body of doctrine guarded by all and leaving no room for nuance, this might appear as undesirable and leading to confusion".<sup>[39]</sup> Indeed, some currents of gnosticism scorned the concrete simplicity of the Gospel and attempted to replace the trinitarian and incarnate God with a superior Unity, wherein the rich diversity of our history disappeared. 44. In effect, doctrine, or better, our understanding and expression of it, "is not a closed system, devoid of the dynamic capacity to pose questions, doubts, inquiries... The questions of our people, their suffering, their struggles, their dreams, their trials and their worries, all possess an interpretational value that we cannot ignore if we want to take the principle of the incarnation seriously. Their wondering helps us to wonder, their questions question us".<sup>[40]</sup>

**Our Lenten Obligation**

Church law considers every Friday and the season of Lent as penitential days and times. The practice of penance is a part of our faith and Christian 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.

The Lenten obligation, as determined for Catholics in the United States by our bishops, requires that fasting be observed on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. The law of abstinence is to be observed on Ash Wednesday and all the Fridays of Lent.

**Who must fast?**

All Catholics who are between the ages of 18 & 59. The obligation ceases when one begins his/her 60<sup>th</sup> yr on his/her 59<sup>th</sup> birthday.

**Who must abstain?**

All Catholics who are 14 years and older.

**What does fasting mean?**

The observance of fasting means that those obliged may take only one full meal on the day of fast. Two lighter meals (not equal to another full meal) may be taken to maintain strength according to one's needs.

**What does abstinence mean?**

The law of abstinence forbids the eating of meat, including poultry. Voluntary abstinence refers to refraining from lawful pleasures in a spirit of penance.

**Can anyone be dispensed or excused from fast and/or abstinence?**

Individuals for a just cause may be dispensed by their pastor or by a priest with the faculty to do so. In our Diocese all priests may dispense individuals who are committed to their pastoral care. Those who are ill or have a similar serious reason are excused from the observance of fast and abstinence. Catholics are reminded that they should not lightly excuse themselves from this obligation.

♦ **Prayer List Permission Form:** Names are placed on the prayer list, unless otherwise notified, for 60 days. After that time, a permission form must be re-submitted.

♦ **Pray for:** Fill out the forms, even if you're healthy & would like to be prayed for in times of need! •Victor Yanuskiewicz • Joe Tomtishen Sr. • Phil & Shirley Kennedy •John & Angie Ounfuer •Fr. Jim Torpey

♦ **Lenten Symbol:** is distributed the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Lent. The beautiful image allows us to keep the reminder before us on the Lenten journey. The symbols are given in memory of **Ron Rader** by LouAnn/Lindsay.



Hear Our Prayer

❖ **Birth Blessings:** Sandra Hetherington: 2/25; Gavin Johnstone: 2/26; Andrew Osilka: 2/28; Bradley William, Annalie MacFarland: 3/1; Will Balkiewicz, Ann Halupa: 3/3; Sabrina Krusinsky, Damian Fritz, John Sartori: 3/4; Jacob Crawford: 3/5; Adelina Popalis: 3/7; Marjorie Lorah, Bob Richards, Kim Wargo: 3/9

*If your birthday was missed, call the office to update your information.*

❖ **Healing Our Church Discussion Groups Coming in Lent**

Catholics throughout the Diocese of Allentown are invited to attend small-group discussions, moderated by fellow parishioners, and designed to encourage reflection and conversation about the clergy abuse crisis. **Healing Our Church** is a program from RENEW International, a Catholic nonprofit organization. Bishop Alfred Schlert has called these **parish-based small-group discussions** “an opportunity for all of us to prayerfully reflect on scripture, on the abuse crisis, and on our path forward as a Roman Catholic Family of Faith.” Discussions will take place during the six weeks of Lent. Contact **Nancy Krajnikovich, St Joseph's @ 215-801-5797**, or **Bill Whitecavage, St Mary's, 570-205-3033** or the parish office to register to participate or for additional information.

❖ **St. Mary's Choir:** \$8.00 - order by 3/29. Pick up 4/2.



Forms @ church, see a choir member or call the parish office. **We seek donations of flour.** Donations can be dropped off at SM church or the parish office. **New members always welcome!**



❖ **K of C Happenings:** next meeting Mar 17<sup>th</sup>.

Knights will be holding a **Pot Luck Social @** the Ringtown American Legion Home 7:00pm, following Saturday Evening Mass on March 2<sup>nd</sup> at St Mary's – event is open to not only Knights and their family member, but any parishioners interested in attending. See a Knight if planning to attend. Knights of Columbus **Council 16072 Scholarship** – Due date is May 12<sup>th</sup> 2019 – Applications should be available by the end of this week and put on the Parish Website or at Mass.

**Eligible applicants must meet the following criteria:**

\*Applicant must be a current High School Student on track to graduate in 2019.

\*Applicant must be a current *active member of St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church, Ringtown or St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church, Sheppton, P.A.*

\*Attending an institution of higher education in the fall of 2019: two or four-year college or university, community college, business or trade school, Armed Forces. Attendance may be part or full time.

❖ **40 Cans for Lent/40 Days for Life!** Our

commitment to the poor challenges us to serve Christ by donating a can good for each day of Lent. Our goal is to reach **1,000 lbs of canned items** between both parishes during Lent. The food will be distributed to support the poor in our area.

This campaign will begin sometime in February.

Please watch for the collection boxes in back of the Churches.



❖ **St. Joseph's 50/50:** are out! Extra tickets are available

❖ **Grand Raffle @ J:** Our Annual Picnic will be here before you know it and prizes are needed for the Grand Raffle. Please consider donating a gift card, cash prize or an item. We ask that the value be no less than \$25. Donation forms with more information are at the entrance to church. We need time to have the tickets printed, so it is important that we receive donations on or before March 10. **We are celebrating our 125th Anniversary of our church**, so let's make this the best raffle ever!

❖ **PREP/CONFIRMATION NEWS:**

**Wanted:** CATECHISTS

**Reward:** Personal Satisfaction Guaranteed

We are in need of a few individuals to volunteer as Substitute Catechists. Classes are held after the Sunday 8:15 am Mass at St Joseph's Sheppton. State & Diocesan clearances are required. Please speak with Lynn Kuzmitsky or Lisa in the Parish office if interested, they can assist with clearances. Help our children be all they can be. Become a CCD teacher and use your talents God has given you to help teach our faith.

► **Worldwide Marriage Encounter**

Mar 3 – *Tired of winter? Wishing it were spring?* SHAKE OFF THOSE WINTER “BLAHS” and put the freshness of romance back into your relationship

Mar 10 – *During Lent, begin the habit of praying together every day to strengthen your faith.* Attending a WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER WEEKEND will strengthen your marriage. For information call 1-732-904-9636 or visit [www.aweekendforyourmarriage.org](http://www.aweekendforyourmarriage.org).

► **Reading Royals - JOIN US FOR A FAMILY FUN NIGHT!**

The Diocese of Allentown will be hosting a Night at the Reading Royals on Saturday, March 16<sup>th</sup> at 7pm. Join Bishop Schlert and the Diocesan Family for a Family Fun Night at the rink at Santander Arena in Berks County! Tickets are \$13 each and the first 200 guests will join us in the "High Five Tunnel" to welcome the Royals to the ice at game time! You can purchase tickets here: <https://royals.isportstix.com/order/group/AllentownDiocese/>. We hope to see you there!

► **Diocese of Allentown Prison Ministry Workshop**

Are you currently volunteering in Catholic Prison Ministry or have a desire to volunteer? Join us on **Saturday, March 23, 2019** for a morning workshop from 8:30 am - NOON at **St. Joseph the Worker, Orefield**. The morning will begin with Mass at 8:30 am with the workshop to follow in the Parish Center. The workshop will feature talks and discussion designed to assist those in Catholic Prison Ministry. Featured speakers are: Rev. Jason Stokes, Rev. Daniel Basile, Ms. Wendy Krisak. To register for this FREE workshop, visit [www.allentowndiocese.org/prisonministry](http://www.allentowndiocese.org/prisonministry). Questions may be directed to [cle@allentowndiocese.org](mailto:cle@allentowndiocese.org) or call 610-289-8900 ext. 2021.

❖ **SCRIP:** We've: \$25 & \$100 Amazon, \$25 Applebee's, \$25 Apple itunes\$, 10 Bath & Body Works, \$25 Bed Bath & Beyond, \$25 Boscov's, \$25 Cabela's, \$25 Cracker Barrel, \$25 CVS, \$10 Dairy Queen, \$25 Dunham's, \$25 & \$10 Dunkin' Donuts, \$25 Gap/Old Navy, \$25 & \$50 Giant Foods, \$25 Home Depot, \$10 Long John Silvers, \$25 & \$100 Lowes, \$25 Macy's, \$25 Michael's, \$25 Olive Garden, \$10 & \$25 Panera Bread \$25 PetSmart, \$10 Pizza Hut, \$25 Regal Cinema, \$10 Regal Cinema (Admit one), \$25 Sheetz, \$50 Sunoco, \$25 Target, \$25 TJ Maxx/Marshall's, \$25 Walmart/Sam's, \$100 Walmart/Sam's, \$25 Weis, \$100 Weis. Thank you to all who support this fund-raising program by purchasing scrip cards for gifts as well as for their everyday purchases! *We're taking orders/sell @ St Joseph's after mass. Contact the parish office to place an order!*

❖ **Redner's Save-A-Tape:** Save your receipts, put them in Sunday Stewardship. (M) benefit 1%. **For your receipts to count toward the church you must sign up at Redners service desk!**

❖ **Outside Events:** • **Sheppton Fire House:** Bingo Sunday, 3/10

• **Ringtown Rotary** invites you to attend a meeting to learn about their organization. Meetings are held on Thursdays @ 6:15 at the Union Township building, however 2/28 & 3/21 will be set aside for visitors to learn more about the organization. If interested call/text the Monday before any meeting so they can properly prepare a meal for all. **Ann O'Boyle** Cell: 570-498-1668 / Home: 570-889-5305; [oboy53@ptd.net](mailto:oboy53@ptd.net) or see any Rotarian.

• **St. Joseph's Frackville:** 9 S Broad Mtn. Ave. Rummage Sale 8-2pm Food Sale 10-2pm ; “Grief Bereavement & Moving On” presentation 3/11 @ 6pm in the Church Hall, free and open to the public

• **St. Pauls' UCC:** Chili Sale Tues. 3/12 4-6pm. Order deadline: 3/8. \$6.50/quart **Call Janice to order @ 570-889-349**

**Turn clocks AHEAD 1hr before bedtime on 3/09/2019**

