

# Most Holy Trinity Parish

Parish Office: 236 Route 390, Cresco, PA 18326

Worship Site: Msgr. McHugh, 212 Route 390, Cresco, PA 18326

Parish Office  
(570) 595-3100

Fax  
(570) 595-3200

Website  
[www.mht-poconos.org](http://www.mht-poconos.org)



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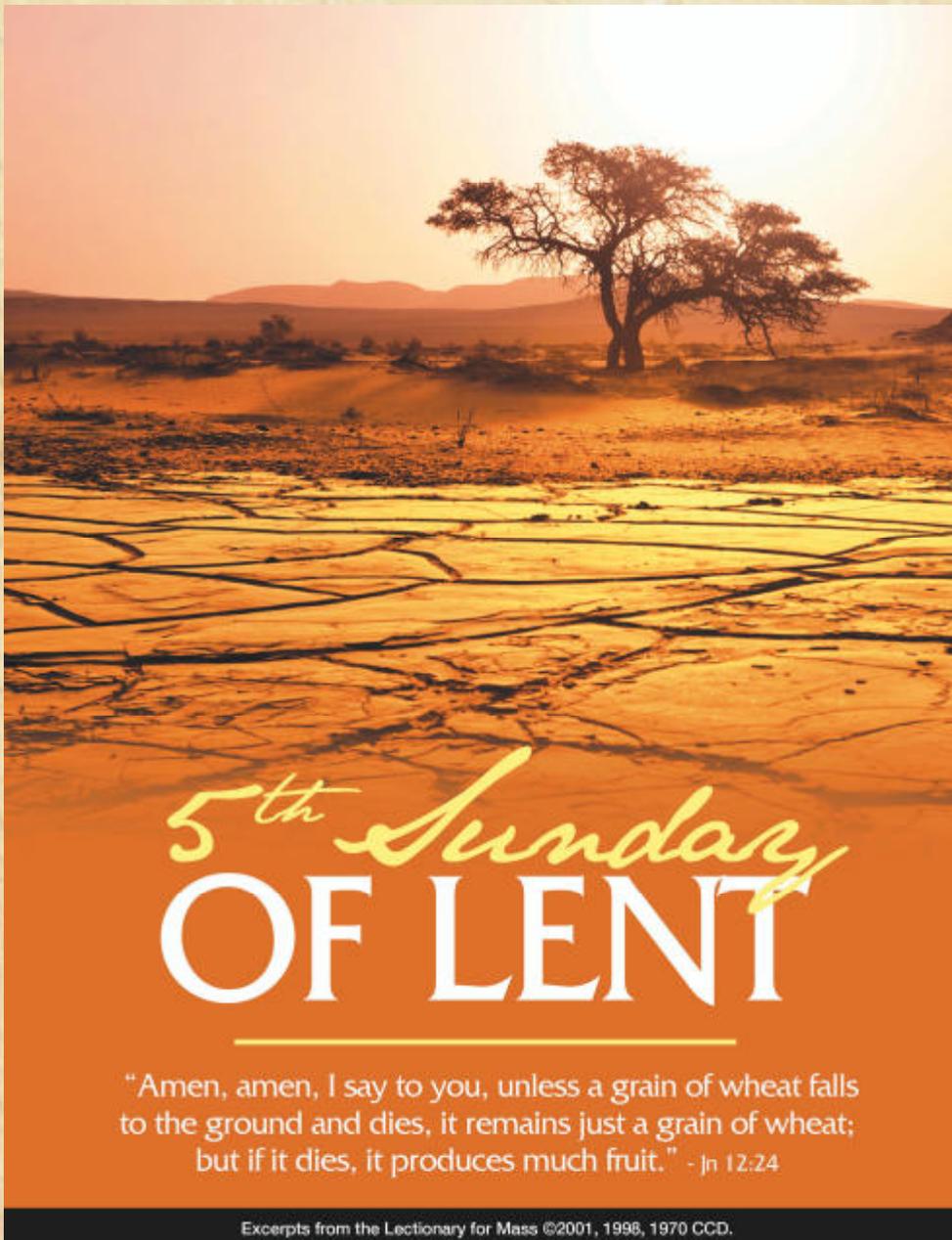


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## Mission Statement

We, the Catholic community of Most Holy Trinity Parish, rich in diversity, strive to achieve the unity that is the essence of God and the heart of the Church. Empowered by the Holy Spirit, we are called to be faithful stewards of the apostolic tradition, to stir into flame the gifts of God the Father, and to evangelize through our action as witnesses to our Lord, Jesus Christ.

March 21, 2021



5<sup>th</sup> Sunday  
**OF LENT**

"Amen, amen, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains just a grain of wheat; but if it dies, it produces much fruit." - Jn 12:24

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

## Pastor:

Rev. Gregory Loughney

## Parochial Vicar:

Rev. Jaime Perez-Restropo

## Permanent Deacons:

Alan Baranski  
Jose Mendoza

## In Residence:

Msgr. John Bergamo

## Retired Deacon:

Ron Verkon

## Parish Pastoral Council:

Jen Beers  
Wayne Beers  
Cindy DeLuca  
Gladys Guardia  
Benito Juarez  
Joe Matarazzo  
Barb Page  
Danielle Rake  
Nancy Santi  
Ginger Walsh  
Eileen Ziobro

## Parishioners of the Parish

In the Roman Catholic Church of the United States of America, a member is considered “active” when “one is registered and actively participates in the liturgical and pastoral life of the parish through the generous, sacrificial and proportionate sharing of his/her God-given gifts of time, talent and treasure.”

As a Catholic and registered parishioner of the parish, I am expected to:

- ◆ Regularly attend and participate in Sunday Mass – preferably as a family
- ◆ Regularly participate in the sacramental life of the Church
- ◆ Develop and practice an ongoing personal/family prayer life
- ◆ Witness to the teachings of the Church by my manner of living life
- ◆ Seek to understand and practice what it means to be and live as an active and committed Christian steward in service to the parish and the Church
- ◆ Commit annually to a generous, sacrificial and proportionate commitment of my time, talent and treasure in service to the mission of the parish and the universal Church without counting the cost or any expectation of something in return
- ◆ Recognize, understand, and accept my need to regularly give and share rather than giving and sharing only when there happens to be a need
- ◆ Acknowledge, as a registered parishioner, that I am to participate in the mission of the parish rather than being only a spectator.
- ◆ Realize the necessary and ongoing importance of love, generosity, faith and family.

Let us remember, it is only through God’s love that we receive the gift of life. In the course of our lives, we are the recipients of God’s grace and giftedness. Through our Baptism, we are called to serve as God’s disciples, sharing - *in gratitude* - His gifts and grace in loving service of God and neighbor.

Our expectations within this gift of life must not be allowed to take precedent over what is expected of us in gratitude thereof. “Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me.” (Mt. 16:24)

## Email Addresses

Main Office: mht-poconos@outlook.com

Bulletin: mht-bulletin@outlook.com

## Modified Parish Office Hours

Monday through Friday

9:00am - 12 noon

*Office is closed to the public.*

## Daily Mass

Monday - Friday 8:15am

## Sunday Mass Schedule

Saturday 4:00pm

Sunday 8:00am, 10:30am  
12:00pm - Spanish

## Reconciliation

Saturday 2:00pm - 3:00pm

*Other times available by appointment.*

## MHT Parish Mass Intentions

3/22	8:15am	Angelina Gargano	CCD Teachers
3/23	8:15am	Lydia Samuels	The James Family
3/24	8:15am	Mary Virginia Hammond	Gladys Garber and Family
	7:00pm	For the People	The Pastor
3/25	8:15am	Pat Iervante	Rob Sullivan
3/26	8:15am	For the People	The Pastor
3/27	4:00pm	For the People	The Pastor
3/28	8:00am	Frank J. Riviello	Marguerite Morrow
	10:30am	Special Intentions of Barbara L. Klimer	Rob Sullivan
	12:00pm	Moises Falconi	Manuel Falconi



# HOLY WEEK AND EASTER SCHEDULE

**Saturday/Sunday, March 27/28th**

Palm Sunday at Worship Space at 4:00 p.m./8:00am, 10:30am

**Thursday, April 1st:**

Holy Thursday Mass at 7:00 p.m. at Worship Space

**Friday, April 2nd:**

Good Friday Service at 3:00 p.m. at Worship Space

**Saturday, April 3rd:**

Blessing of Easter Baskets at 12noon at MMC Parking Lot

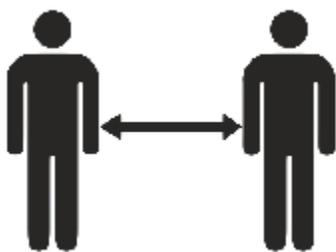
Easter Vigil Mass at 8:00 p.m. at Worship Space

**Sunday, April 4th:**

Easter Masses at 8:00 a.m., 10:30 a.m. at Worship Space

## Safety Measures when Attending Mass

**6 ft  
Safe, Social  
Distancing**



**Masks On  
Covering Nose  
and Mouth**



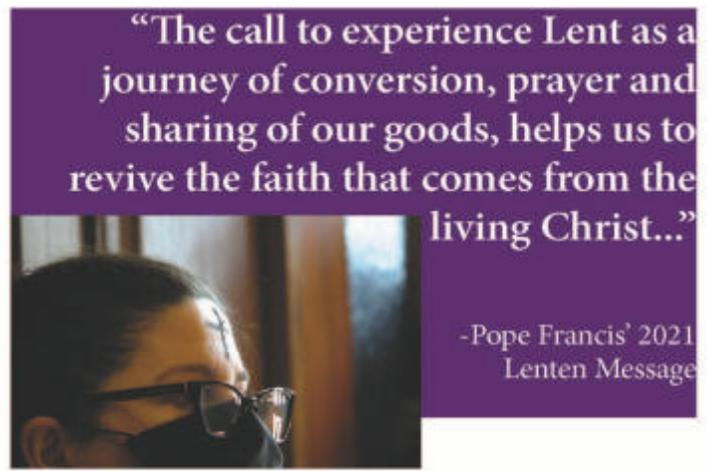
**Sanitize Hands  
before  
Communion**



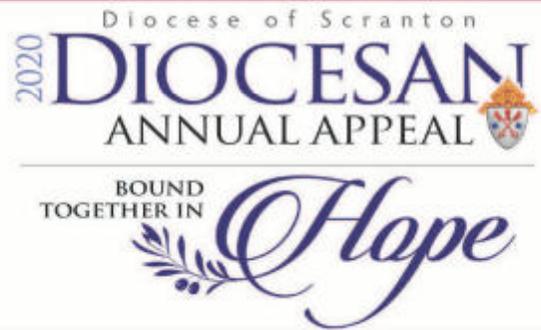
## Donate a Portion of Your Stimulus Check

As the pandemic has placed an extra financial strain on many households, some households find themselves in a sound financial position. To that end we invite you to consider donating a portion of your government issued Stimulus Check to our parish building fund.

Work is continuing at the Msgr. McHugh Center and in areas connected to our worship space. As a parish, we have taken on the work in multiple areas to reduce costs. We have also relied upon and are most thankful to the volunteers who help in some many ways thus eliminating some labor costs. Nevertheless, there remains material and certain labor costs. Any donation that you make will directly support our efforts in these areas. Thank you again, and with your support our dream will soon be a reality.



**During this Lenten season, provide help and hope to your neighbors!**



**To donate, visit [AnnualAppeal.org](http://AnnualAppeal.org) or call (570) 207-2250**

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### **Prayer to St. Joseph for our Building Project**

Ever blessed and glorious Saint Joseph, kind and loving father, and helpful friend of all, who labored to provide for the needs of Jesus and Mary,  
hear us in our need.

Obtain for us the grace of generous hearts, open minds, greater unity, and renewed vision, as we seek to build a house for celebration and worship.

May it be a home where all are welcomed, nourished, and empowered to be Christ for others. Amen.

# The Virtue of Generosity



“You have heard that it was said, ‘An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.’ But I say to you, offer no resistance to one who is evil. When someone strikes you on your right cheek, turn the other one as well. If anyone wants to go to law with you over your tunic, hand over your cloak as well. Should anyone press you into service for one mile, go with him for two. Give to the one who asks, and do not turn your back on one who wants to borrow. You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ But I say to you, love your enemies, and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be children of your heavenly Father.” (Mt 5:38-45)

These words of Jesus Christ speak life into the true meaning of generosity. How so? To be authentically generous is to go above and beyond what our fallen nature feels comfortable with. Generosity is our humble service – knowing that our lives are not our own but given freely to the service of God and others. We, as faithful Christians, out of love of God, offer all things in imitation of our Lord who was first generous to us. Hence, to turn the other cheek when someone strikes you goes against our human inclination. In the same way, how can we love our enemies and pray for our persecutors when it goes against what we feel we ought to do: return evil with evil?



To be generous means being selfless. As followers of Jesus Christ – as Christians – we are called to unite ourselves with Him. We are to want what God wants, to think as God thinks, to be living examples of how Christ Himself was when He walked the earth some 2000 years ago. Our focus is not on the here-and-now but on eternity with Him in heaven. Everything relating to the things of this world we are to look at as St. Ignatius of Loyola beautifully describes: “...that they may help us in prosecuting the end for which we are created. From this it follows that we are to use created things as much as they help us toward our end, and we ought to rid ourselves of them so far as they hinder us.”



And so, generosity is not just donating money or simply giving in general. No, being truly generous is being selfless in the service of others in terms of things created or actions performed. It is a complete giving of one’s self for the sake of love of God and neighbor in every sphere of our lives; knowing that God, indeed, takes care of us and desires to give to us what we truly long for.

It may seem far-fetched or downright unrealistic to attain to such sanctity but it is possible! Anyone familiar with the lives of the Saints knows that it is possible to be authentically generous in our lives. God desires to give all of us the grace in order to procure this end. He is ready and always willing with arms outstretched! The old saying holds true, “We truly receive when giving” only this time the giving goes far beyond the norm! Imagine the joy!

# WORSHIP & MEDITATION



## FIRST READING

All, from least to greatest, shall know me,  
says the LORD,  
for I will forgive their evildoing and remember  
their sin no more. (Jer 31:34)



## PSALM

Create a clean heart in me, O God. (Ps 51)



## SECOND READING

Son though he was, he learned obedience  
from what he suffered; (Heb 5:8)



## GOSPEL

Amen, amen, I say to you,  
unless a grain of wheat falls to  
the ground and dies,  
it remains just a grain of wheat;  
but if it dies, it produces much fruit. (Jn 20:24)

*Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001,  
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Responses from Lectionary for Mass © 1969, 1981,  
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## GOSPEL MEDITATION

### Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

Any good teacher or parent will tell you that once a lesson is really learned it doesn't need to be taught again. When we internalize things we have learned, they become a part of who we are and influence how we perceive and interact with our world. The same is true for the law God has written upon our hearts. Once humanity learns this lesson, we will simply know it to be true and act accordingly. Sometimes, it is hard to get people to learn the lessons they need to learn. They are often distracted, disinterested, conflicted, misdirected, or just too stubborn and unable or unwilling to see what is right before their eyes. Understanding that God is in a loving and committed relationship with those fashioned and formed in God's own image, seems like such a simple lesson to learn. But history and experience has proven that it is not.

We struggle with faith, especially when that faith asks us to learn something very particular about ourselves. We must, like a grain of wheat, fall to the ground and die. Because God's DNA is at the very core of who we are, there are specific pearls of wisdom that must be acquired before we can live a full life. One very powerful lesson is that it is not the task of the world to tell us who we are and what has meaning, but God. For many, death is not an opportunity for greater life but a permanent ending to the life they have known. Jesus knew every dimension to what it means to be fully human because he was! He knows the joys, limitations, sorrows, frustrations, wonders, suffering, opportunities, and joys of the human experience. Jesus can teach us a wealth of knowledge and life's lessons from his example, especially obedience.

When we accept the law God has placed in our hearts and gain wisdom from it, then when we suffer we learn to listen more attentively to the Voice behind that law. We naturally flee to our Creator for inspiration, consolation, hope, direction, and comfort as we navigate through this time of darkness. We will not need to run from it, subdue it, fight it, or be overcome by it because we will know, having internalized this profound lesson before, that God will bring new life. God's law is love and love never fails. Even in the moments of Jesus' deepest despair, he glorified the name of his Father. What he learned allowed him to put everything in perspective and be obedient to the tender, loving Voice that echoed within. As Lent quickly winds down, may we learn the same! Then, may we gain the fortitude and wisdom to help others see what is right before their eyes.

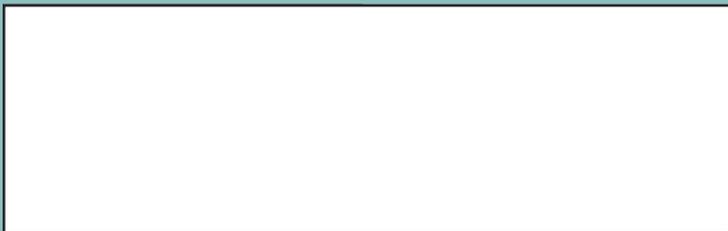


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