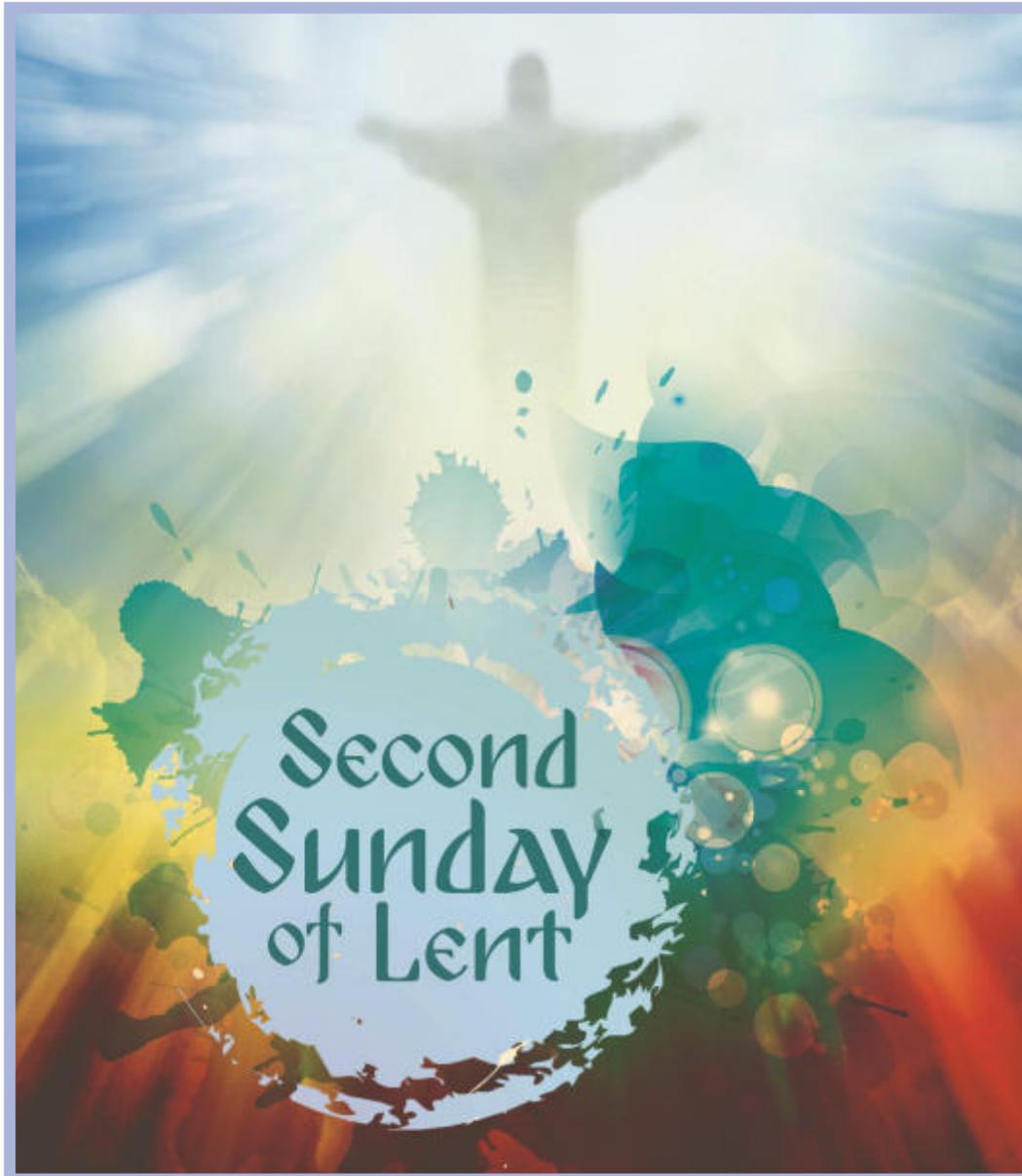


St. Maximilian Kolbe Parish

February 28, 2021



MISSION STATEMENT

We Worship ~ We Teach ~ We Care

5112 Pocono Crest Road
PO Box O
Pocono Pines, PA 18350
570-646-6424

Mass Schedule:
Saturday 4:00 pm
Sunday 8:30 am & 10:30 am

February 28, 2021

Second Sunday of Lent



Then a cloud came, casting a shadow over them; then from the cloud came a voice, "This is my beloved Son. Listen to him." Suddenly, looking around, they no longer saw anyone but Jesus alone with them. Mk 9:7-8

GOSPEL MEDITATION

A pregnant woman was walking in the store and met an old friend. Her friend exclaimed, "You are absolutely beaming!" The new life God placed in her womb radiated throughout her body. It was brightly visible on her face and in her eyes. Transformation and change usually happen from the inside out. It is very rare that simply imposing structure from the outside does any good. Yes, it is true that routines and habits can change when things are done differently. But, for this change to last there has to be an interior renewal and metamorphosis as well. Simply regulating behavior and bringing someone into conformity with accepted protocols doesn't mean their heart and soul come with them.

Peter was a homeless man who lived in a very remote and rudimentary tent community. He was happy to make his daily trip to McDonald's and always welcomed a gift card or two so that he could buy some coffee and something to eat. A generous advocate worked to secure him an apartment in hopes of moving Peter out of his makeshift housing and into something safer. Peter finally got the grand tour of his new "digs," received his own key, remarked how wonderful the place was, closed the door behind him when they left and never returned. He preferred his tent. No matter how much things changed on the outside, Peter was happy where he was. A poignant lesson was learned that day.

How is your Lent going? By now you ought to have a sense of whether you're really "into it" this year and something transformational is happening. For many, it's only the stuff on the outside that changes for a few weeks and then they return to business as usual. For others, there are some real inner changes happening that are deepening their relationships with God, others, self, and creation. If we are serious about moving to a new place and radiating with the presence of new life and joy, then we have to clear the way to listen for God's call. Then, there is God's request to change things up a bit and order our lives differently. After realizing we have been called and given a mission, we have to trust that this is where we need to be. And then, after all of this hard work we are asked to act. The fruit that is revealed will indicate whether our journey is authentic. The brilliance of conversion will begin to shine on our faces as we contemplate the One to whom we are asked to listen.

	<p>St. Maximilian Kolbe Parish Staff</p>
<p>Reverend Sean G. Carpenter ~ Pastor</p> <p>Deacon Tom Amoroso</p> <p>Melissa Laverty Pastoral Associate Coordinator of Religious Education ~ St.MaxMelissa@outlook.com</p> <p>Juli Reese Office Manager ~ Stmaxkol@ptd.net</p> <p>John Marcinkowski, Jr. Coordinator of Music ~ jjm1105@ptd.net</p>	
<p>Visit us on the web @ www.stmaxkolbepoconos.org</p>	

St. Maximilian Kolbe, Priest and Martyr, pray for us



Mass Intentions

by JoAnn Berger

Saturday: Anne Marie Alcamo

by Nat Alcamo

Sunday: For The Parishioners

Tadeusz Domanski

by M/M Robert Domanski

Monday: Betty Lou Decker

by Joseph Ewasko

Tuesday: Edward Tocci

by Michael Wilchek

Wednesday: Betty Lou Torpey

by Rita, Joe and Family

Thursday: Virginia Spiker

by Robin, Erik, Ryan & Evan Spiker

Saturday: William H. Binna, Jr.

by Parents, Bill and Eileen

Sunday: For The Parishioners

The Mc Huch Family

Readings for the Week

Saturday: Dt 26:16-19; Mt 5:43-48

Sunday: Gn 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18;
Rom 8:31b-34; Mk 9:2-10

Monday: Dn 9:4b-10; Lk 6:36-38

Tuesday: Is 1:10, 16-20; Mt 23:1-12

Wednesday: Jer 18:18-20; Mt 20:17-28

Thursday: Jer 17:5-10; Lk 16:19-31

Friday: Gn 37:3-4, 12-13a, 17b-28a;
Mt 21:33-43, 45-46

Saturday: Mi 7:14-15, 18-20; Lk 15:1-3, 11-32

Sunday: Ex 20:1-17; 1 Cor 1:22-25;
Jn 2:13-25



First Friday Adoration

Suspended until further notice

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR MASS

During any future Masses, our parish welcomes anyone who would like to help us during daily and weekend Masses with greeting and/or seating parishioners, serving as lector, or assisting with technology. Anyone interested may contact Juli or Melissa in the parish office, 570-646-6424.



Confessions

During Lent-Mondays

9:45 to 10:15 am,

following daily Mass.

Otherwise by appointment.



A warm *Thank You* to those who continue offertory support to our parish during these difficult times. Donations for week ending February 14th were \$3,714. Your donations may be placed in the basket when leaving mass; by mailing them to the church, or by signing up for online giving.

“Abortion affects countless marriages more than many people recognize. But there is no doubt that God will bring great healing to those who trust in his infinite mercy. If a past abortion can be acknowledged and addressed, a married couple can make great strides in experiencing even more fully God’s design that ‘the two shall become one’ (Mt 19:5).”

USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities
“Healing within Marriage from an Abortion”
respectlife.org/healing-in-marriage

St. Maximilian Kolbe, Priest and Martyr, pray for us

FAITH formation

Faith Formation Classes **Updates and Reminders**

This year, students in the parish's Faith Formation program in grades 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7 are learning about their faith using the online program *My Catholic Faith Delivered*. This year, the parish is covering all costs for the program. It's not too late to get started if your child hasn't already done so. For more information or if you need to reset your child's login password, contact Melissa in the parish office.



GOD BLESS OUR FAITH FORMATION **STUDENTS WHO WILL CELEBRATE THE** **SACRAMENT OF FIRST COMMUNION** **SATURDAY, MAY 1,** **DURING THE 4 P.M. MASS**

Prayers are requested for our second grade students as they continue their formation for this Sacrament with their teacher, Mrs. Ann Negvesky:

Gunner Gonzalez
Brendan Keane
Torin Murphy
Samantha Van Buskirk
Bryan Vinci
Lyssa Weaver



GOD BLESS OUR FAITH FORMATION **STUDENTS WHO WILL CELEBRATE THE** **SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION**

Prayers are also requested for our eighth grade students as they continue their formation for this Sacrament with their teachers, Dr. Maureen Rinehimer and Mr. Bruce Reese. Confirmation will be held on Saturday, May 22, and Sunday, May 23.

Zoe Bisono
Patrick Domanski
Megan Hejnowicz
Ayden Hull
Gerald Negvesky
Jussette Suardi
Nathaniel Cornejo
Madelynn Drivon
Dylan Horoszewski
Klaudia Kononczuk
Michael Peterson

LENTEN ACTIVITIES

Stations of the Cross will be held each Wednesday during Lent following 9:15 a.m. Mass and at 7 p.m., leading up to Holy Week.

Join the Polish Community of our parish for the devotion *Gorzkie zale*, translated Bitter Lamentations, during Lent. The devotional service that is a meditation on the Passion will be held following each 10:30 a.m. Mass during Lent.

Don't miss the new online program *Engage*, brought to you by the Word on Fire Institute. If you registered your email address with the parish, you will automatically receive the *Engage* program via email. If you would like to share your email address with the parish, contact the office.

Deacon Tom will lead a **Rosary and Eucharistic Adoration** each Thursday during Lent at 6:30 p.m.

Confessions will be held every Monday during Lent following the 9:15 a.m. Mass.

The St. Maximilian Kolbe Scripture Seekers discussion group meets live on Zoom every Tuesday morning at 10:30 a.m. New members are always welcome. For more information on how to join, contact Melissa in the parish office. We would love to "see" you.



SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

In order to understand and appreciate the Sacrament of Baptism, expectant parents are required to attend Baptism preparation. Currently, preparation takes place online. A call to the parish office approximately four months before your child is due will make the scheduling of your pre-Baptism session easier and give you ample time to prepare for this Sacrament of Initiation to the life of grace. For more information, contact Melissa in the parish office.



St. Maximilian Kolbe, Priest and Martyr, pray for us

HAVE THE BEST LENT EVER

Best Lent Ever is a free email program through *DynamicCatholic.com* that can help to guide you on an incredible 40-day journey to become the best version of yourself. Sign up for free online at ***DynamicCatholic.com*** to receive daily emails with short, inspirational videos; practical tips to incorporate into your everyday life; and encouraging stories from Matthew Kelly and the team from *Dynamic Catholic*.

LIVE THE LITURGY INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

How is your Lent going so far? In changing the circumstances and order of our lives a bit, perhaps we can hear God's voice more clearly and drink more deeply of graced moments we experience. Having God as a friend always involves several things. First, there is God's call. We become attuned to the echo of God's voice in the depth of our souls calling and beckoning us to listen. Second, there is a request. We begin to see that God asks us to do certain things, to order our lives a particular way, and become more intentional in the choices we make. Third, there is trust. Do we trust this call and request? Trust commits us to the relationship and makes a claim on who we are. Finally, we are asked to act. We find ourselves acting, not in the way we used to, but in a transformed, more enlightened way. Things seem clearer and all that is around us shines with the brilliance of God's presence. God's call came through a cloud, "This is my beloved Son. Listen to him," This is the call and the request. Can we give God our trust and do as God asks?



Katie Scully ~ Eileen Long - Geri Williams
Mary DeWaters - Mary Howe
Fr. John Boyle*

If you know someone in need of prayers
and would like to have them added to this list,
please call the Parish Office.



**To access the Masses live on Facebook -
Saturday @ 4 pm; Sunday @ 8:30 & 10:30
go to Facebook.com and in the search
engine, type "St Maximilian Kolbe Parish,
Pocono Pines, PA."**

MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday 4 pm

Sunday - 8:30 am & 10:30 am

Daily Masses: Mon.~Thurs. at 9:15 am
All masses will be on a first come, first serve basis. Overflow seating will be in the parish hall with live television. Everyone is required to wear a mask and ushers will take everyone to their seats, following social distancing protocols. We humbly ask for your patience and cooperation with this arrangement.
Online Masses will also continue on the Pocono Catholic YouTube site at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC38MQDvW5w347cmZpbTDgQ>.
You can access this Mass featuring Father Sean and Father Gregg at any time on Saturday or Sunday.

St. Maximilian Kolbe, Priest and Martyr, pray for us



Welcome to Flocknote

Hi St. Maximilian Kolbe Parish Family! The parish is now using a new system for communication called Flocknote. Flocknote will replace our traditional email system. Stay tuned for more information, including the new Engage program that is coming your way for Lent 2021.

Stations of the Cross

During Lent, the Stations of the Cross will take place every Wednesday after the 9:15 am Mass and at 7 pm.



LIHEAP Forms Available

Applications for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) are available in the parish office. You can drop by to pick one up Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m.- 12 p.m.

Or for more information you can call 1-866-857-7095.

"40 Days for Life"

Pro-Life Rosary Gathering

- February 17 to March 26,

offered for the special intentions of ending abortion and closure of Planned Parenthood location in Wilkes-Barre; Rosary is prayed each weekday, Monday thru Friday, at 10 a.m. in front of the offices of Planned Parenthood, 101 N. Main St., Wilkes-Barre (across from King's College). Pro-life campaign draws attention to the evil of abortion through prayer & fasting, constant vigil, and community outreach.

EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP

RECOGNIZE GOD

IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

When Sacrifice Becomes Mundane

It seems to happen every year, like clockwork: we drag a bit, as we enter into the second week of Lent. On Ash Wednesday, we feel a bit like soldiers banging our shields, rushing into battle. "We're ready, God!" our hearts cry out. "Transform us through sacrifice! Your will be done!"

But by now, these Lenten resolutions are no longer novelties — they've joined the ranks of everyday inconveniences, which somehow are the hardest to bear. Because transformation, in real life, happens in inches, just as a battle is won slowly in the crash of one sword against another. It's not always a dramatic thing, to the naked eye. It's the perseverance in prayer despite weariness, or the continual denial of some pleasure even though there's that nagging voice in our minds saying: *go ahead, God doesn't really mind.*

It's a week when we all need a shock to the system — and wouldn't you know it, this Sunday God gives us a double-whammy of dramatic sacrificial scenes. We picture Abraham, who also cried "Ready!" when God called, never imagining what He would ask: the surrender of his long-awaited son. We see Christ himself transfigured, as God shows us what He is ready to give up for love of us.

We must remain committed, persevering daily in acknowledging that everything belongs to God. What we sacrifice, we simply give back to Him.

If God is for us, who can be against us? Can we still reply, "Ready!" when we hear the call of God?
— *Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS*

DONATE YOUR RECEIPTS

WEIS MARKET RECEIPTS ARE STILL BEING COLLECTED BY OUR PARISH.

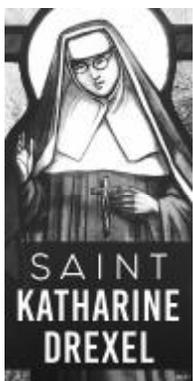
Patronize Weis Markets

Save your receipts - Give them to us

We receive Rebate checks

St. Maximilian Kolbe, Priest and Martyr, pray for us

FEAST DAYS THIS WEEK



Wednesday: St. Katharine Drexel, Virgin

Katharine Drexel's story certainly is unlike any other. Born in 1858 to one of Philadelphia's wealthiest and most prominent families, the heiress and society girl shocked her family and the nation when she became a Roman Catholic nun and social activist at age 31. Using her inheritance of \$7 million (about \$180 million in today's currency), she spent the next 60 years and an estimated \$20 million building missions, schools and churches for Native Americans and African-Americans. She was known as the world's wealthiest nun, and the only nun to found a university: Xavier University of Louisiana, the only historically black college or university that is Catholic.

After her death in 1955, Katharine was beatified (one of the steps in becoming a saint) in 1987, 100 years after she was inspired to enter religious life after a meeting with Pope Leo XIII. The first miracle ascribed to her occurred in 1974, when a local boy's eardrum was healed. In 2000, she was canonized after a little girl's deafness was cured.

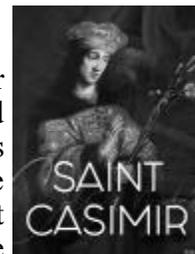
Thursday: St. Casimir

Casimir Jagiellon was born in 1458, the third of thirteen children born to Poland's King Casimir IV and his wife Elizabeth of Austria. He & several of his brothers studied with the priest and historian John Dlugosz, whose deep piety & political expertise influenced Casimir in his upbringing. The young prince had a distaste for the luxury of courtly life, and instead chose the way of asceticism and devotion. He wore plain clothes with a hair shirt beneath them, slept frequently on the ground, and would spend much of the night in prayer and meditation on the suffering and death of Christ. Casimir showed his love for God through these exercises of devotion, and also through his material charity to the poor. He was known as a deeply compassionate young man who felt others' pains acutely.

The young prince was only 13 years old when his father was asked by the Hungarians to offer his son as their new king. Casimir was eager to aid the Hungarians in their defense against the Turks, and went to be crowned. This plan was unsuccessful, however, and he was forced to return to Poland. In 1479 the king left Poland to attend to state business in Lithuania, leaving Prince Casimir in charge of the realm between 1481 and 1483. Advisers to the prince joined his father in trying to convince Casimir to marry. But he preferred to remain single, focusing his life on the service of God and the good of his people. After experiencing symptoms of tuberculosis, Casimir foresaw his death and prepared for it by deepening his devotion to God. He died on route to Lithuania on March 4, 1484, and was buried with a copy of a Marian hymn he frequently recited. Pope Adrian VI canonized him in 1522.

Five centuries after his death, Pope John Paul II recalled how St. Casimir "embraced a life of celibacy, submitted himself humbly to God's will in all things, devoted himself with tender love to the Blessed Virgin Mary and developed a fervent practice of adoring Christ present in the Blessed Sacrament."

"To all," the Pope said, "he was a shining example of poverty and of sacrificial love for the poor and needy."



WHY DO WE DO THAT? - CATHOLIC LIFE EXPLAINED

Question: Why do we use incense at Mass?

Answer: The use of incense in religious ceremonies and worship is a practice that predates Christianity, and which is also found in many other religious traditions today. Incense, which is made from resin infused with aromatic spices and oils, is one of those fundamentally human symbols that incorporates

more than one of our senses, helping us to reflect on realities that transcend the everyday details of our lives. The use of incense in the Church's liturgy — in the Mass, as well as in devotions to the Eucharist and the Liturgy of the Hours — is inspired by the use of incense in the Jewish tradition. In the writings of the Old Testament, we hear about incense being used in the worship of the temple, and Psalm 141 asks, "Let my prayer be incense before you; my uplifted hands an evening offering" (vs. 2). The image here is that, as the incense gently rises to heaven, our prayers also rise to God as something sweet and pleasant. Another ancient use of incense that has also become part of our Catholic tradition is the idea that when we incense something, it's because it is something special or sacred. This is why the Book of the Gospel is incensed during the Liturgy of the Word and the bread, wine, priest celebrant, and congregation are incensed at the presentation of the gifts. To this, we can also add the incensing of the Blessed Sacrament during eucharistic adoration and benediction, and the body of the deceased at the end of the Mass of the Resurrection (the Funeral Mass). ©LPi

St. Maximilian Kolbe, Priest and Martyr, pray for us

