

HOLY SPIRIT PARISH



1ST SUNDAY OF LENT



After John had been arrested, Jesus came to Galilee proclaiming the gospel of God: "This is the time of fulfillment. The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel." - Mk 1:14-15

Mass Intentions

February 21, 2021 The First Sunday of Lent

<u>DAY</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>PLACE</u>	<u>INTENTION</u>
Monday, February 22	7:30 AM	St. Mary	Michaline Grzymiski, by Rebecca & Raphael Micca
Tuesday, February 23	8:30 AM	St. Martha	Jerome Pauley, by Joan Pauley
Wednesday, February 24	7:30 AM	St. Mary	Catherine Monchak, by Jane Rutkoski & Family
Thursday, February 25			No Mass
Friday, February 26	8:30 AM	St. Adalbert	Irene Thomas, by Jim, JoAnne & Family
Saturday, February 27	4:15 PM	St. Mary	Ralph, Ann & Christian Galicki, by Family
Sunday, February 28	8:00 AM	St. Adalbert	Mary Jo Kolessar, by Elliott & Audrey Kratz
	9:45 AM	St. Martha	Henry Dluzeski, by John & Mary Everett

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION: At St. Martha every Tuesday after the 8:30 a.m. Holy Mass until 9:00 p.m. Assigned Eucharistic adorers and substitutes are needed for all hours. Please contact Rebecca at 570-256-7329 to sign up for a specific hour or to be a substitute. **HOLY HOUR FOR PRIESTS** on **March 16th**, 9 - 10:00 a.m. All are welcome to participate in this prayer ministry for the sanctity of priests and for an increase of holy vocations.

CANDLES/FLOWER REMEMBRANCE

St. Adalbert Sanctuary Candle: In Loving Memory of Irene Thomas, by Jim, JoAnne & Family
St. Adalbert Candle for Mary: In Loving Memory of Diane Yudisky, by Family
St. Adalbert Candle for Joseph: In Loving Memory of Clem Olshefski, by Family
St. Adalbert Tabernacle Candle: In Loving Memory of Special Intentions, by Diane Vishnefski
St. Mary BVM Candle: In Loving Memory of Ralph, Ann & Christian Galicki, by Family
St. Mary Sacred Heart Candle: In Loving Memory of Joseph Wojcik, by Daughters

HOLY SPIRIT OFFERTORY— February 7, 2021 \$ 2,452.00

Thank you to everyone who continues to send in their offertory weekly/monthly.

HAPPENINGS

WEEKEND MASSES: There are **Sunday** Masses available for 2021. If you would like to schedule a Mass for a loved one on the weekend, (even if you already scheduled masses for 2021) please call the Parish Office. These masses will be on a first come first serve basis. Thank you!

END OF THE YEAR FINANCIAL STATEMENTS: 2020 Financial statements are available. Please call the Parish Office to have your statement mailed to you.

We need your help: We are looking for someone within our Parish who could fix a 3' x 3' area of sheetrock in the ceiling of St. Mary's Rectory. Please call the parish Office if you can help.

THE LIGHT IS ON FOR YOU, an initiative in the Diocese of Scranton in which churches are open for quiet prayer throughout lent will continue. Beginning on Monday, February 22 of the First week of Lent and continuing through March 22nd of the Fifth week Lent, St. Mary Church will be open from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. for individual prayer. All COVID-19 guidelines must be followed. All must wear masks, keep your social distance, and we are asking you to clean your seat when you are done (supplies will be provided).

HOLY SPIRIT PRAYER GROUP: Meetings are held the First Monday of each month unless noted. The next meeting will be held on **Monday, March 7th**, at 1:00 p.m. in St. Mary's Church. Please submit names of those suffering from serious illness who are homebound, in hospitals or in nursing homes to Gloria Handzelek 570-542-5694, Ann McElligott 570-864-2331 or Mary Lou Zaleski 570-736-6336. All members of Holy Spirit Parish are encouraged to pray for those whose names are on our Prayer List, to pray for Pope Francis and the healing of Holy Mother Church, and to attend our prayer meetings. The Scribe is Barbara Yacoboski 570-542-7447 and the Prayer Group Leader is Paulette Monchak 570-542-7242. Social distancing guidelines will be enforced.

Every donation counts!! If you have not yet pledged, please... Help us reach our Annual Appeal Parish Goal! (28,000.00) OUR PARISH IS AT \$12,545.00 (\$15,455.00) We are grateful to the 107 parishioners who supported the 2020 Annual Appeal to date. If you have not yet given your support, please: 1) Call the Development Office at 570-207-2250 to make a pledge or give a gift by credit card. 2) Mail a check to the Diocesan Appeal Office at 300 Wyoming Ave., Scranton, PA 18503, or give online at DioceseofScranton.org.

YEARLY DUES: The yearly dues amount will be the same as last year; **\$48.00 per person—\$96.00 per couple.**

Lottery winners for February 8-14, 2021 will be published next week.

THE UNLIKELY SUSPECTS

Have you ever taken a nature walk? Have you leisurely strolled through a forest or field, with no real destination in mind and your only objective being receptivity to and observation of all God's creation?

Sometimes, Scripture readings can feel like a nature walk. All of salvation history plays out against the backdrop of the natural world, with all elements of God's creation — plants and animals and the dust of the earth itself — turning in a supporting performance. How about Jesus in the hot and dusty desert, tempted, living "among the wild beasts?" Noah departed from his ark with the animals he rescued, observing God's sign in the very clouds of the sky. Even God Himself, offering us salvation from original sin through the waters of baptism.

How often do we remember that God speaks to us through all of His creation, even in the unlikeliest suspects?

Let's go back to the nature walk. It sounds like a lovely way to pass an afternoon, amongst wildflowers and butterflies, but don't forget the beating hot sun, mosquitos, and threat of rain on the horizon. Remember, we're not in heaven yet. Here on earth, God may be present in His creation, but that doesn't mean it's always easy to endure.

Lent is, essentially, a time to listen for the voice of God in places we may not expect: the mild irritations you experience when you're craving the chocolate you gave up, or the dull pangs of hunger during the Ash Wednesday fast. It's a golden opportunity to see the divine hand in all of creation, even those unlikely suspects.

—Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

DOES IT MATTER WHAT LEG YOU KNEEL ON WHEN GENUFLECTING?

Genuflection is an act of devotion that literally means "to bend the knee." For many Catholics, it's an almost automatic gesture that we perform before entering our pew or row of seats at Mass. But, like many of the symbols and gestures of our faith tradition, genuflecting can also be an invitation for deeper reflection.

The practice of "bending the knee" is an ancient way of recognizing the presence of someone greater than we are. It has been said that the practice dates back to the time of Alexander the Great, but it became a common part of etiquette in the royal courts of the Middle Ages. From throne rooms and palaces, it was a small step to genuflecting, becoming part of the devotional lives

of Christians who used this secular gesture as a way of recognizing the presence of the One who is King of Kings, especially in the Eucharist. In our tradition, although many have been taught or prefer to genuflect by placing their right knee on the ground, there is no prescribed way to genuflect. This is especially important to keep in mind if physical limitations or age make certain movements difficult for us.



Today, Catholics are asked to genuflect in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament (whether in the tabernacle or exposed on the altar during eucharistic adoration). So, while it has become second nature to genuflect before entering your seat in church, we should pay attention to where the Blessed Sacrament is kept in each church or chapel we visit, and genuflect in the direction of the tabernacle where the Blessed Sacrament is kept. In churches or chapels in which

the tabernacle is in a separate space, we are invited to simply bow toward the altar.

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