

HOLY SPIRIT PARISH



2ND SUNDAY OF LENT



Then a cloud came, casting a shadow over them; 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

Mass Intentions

February 28, 2021 The Second Sunday of Lent

DAY	TIME	PLACE	INTENTION
Monday, March 1	8:30 AM	St. Mary	June M. (McCook) Robinson, by John & Dorothy Winckoski
Tuesday, March 2	8:30 AM	St. Martha	Mabel Ann Masich, by Joe & Janet Romano
Wednesday, March 3	8:30 AM	St. Mary	Kathryn Skwarek, by Joe & Alanah Lapinski
Thursday, March 4			No Mass
Friday, March 5	8:30 AM	St. Adalbert	Holy Souls in Purgatory
Saturday, March 6	4:15 PM	St. Mary	Bernice Ciampi, by Frank Evina
Sunday, March 7	8:00 AM	St. Adalbert	Sabina Sokoloski, by The Kizelowich Family
	9:45 AM	St. Martha	Gerald Magaleski, by Ron & Marie Galli

**Please note: Daily masses on Monday and Wednesday are now at 8:30 A.M.

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 Candle for Joseph: In Loving Memory of Frank & Jessie Olshefski, by Family
St. Mary BVM Candle: In Loving Memory of Bernadine Matusek, by Jane Rutkoski & Family

HOLY SPIRIT OFFERTORY— **February 14, 2021** **\$ 3,026.00**

HAPPENINGS

HOLY SPIRIT PARISH/ST. MARY is holding a Haluski sale. Cost is \$6.00 a quart. Call Marion at 570-864-3058 to place your order. Please leave a message with your name and order if there is no answer. Deadline to order is Wednesday, March 17th. Pick-up orders on Saturday, March 20 (after 4:15 PM Mass) or Sunday, March 21 (Noon to 2:00 PM). Thank you for your support!

GORZKIE ZALE: St. Mary's Church, Wednesday, March 3rd at 6:00 PM. Masks must be worn and social distance must be maintained.

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.

LOTTERY WINNERS:

DATE	#	NAME	AMT.	DATE	#	NAME	AMT.
02/08/2021	759	Joseph Bielecki	50.00	02/09/2021	386	Bernie Baluta	50.00
02/10/2021	789	Dion Romanowski	50.00	02/11/2021	206	Susan Rhinehammer	50.00
02/12/2021	502	Catherine Yurkoski	50.00	02/13/2021	769	Helen Price	50.00
02/14/2021	530	John Kopcho	100.00	02/15/2021	160	John Jarecki	50.00
02/16/2021	036	Charles Pszeniczny	50.00	02/17/2021	064	Caroline Zenker	50.00
02/18/2021	100	Kathy Perluk	50.00	02/19/2021	062	Victoria Frace	50.00
02/20/2021	941	Alberta Swicklik	50.00	02/21/2021	005	Carol Wilkes	100.00

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

WHY DO WE USE INCENSE AT MASS?

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).

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