Saint Maria Goretti Church

Reverend Seth Wasnock, Pastor
Reverend Dr. Michael Imbrogno - Deacon
42 Redwood Drive, Laflin, PA 18702
Telephone # 570-655-8956 Fax # 570-655-1746
email: 42redwood@comcast.net www.stmariagoretti-laflin.org

MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday: 4:30PM **Sunday:** 9:30AM **Weekdays M-W-F (only): 8:00AM**

Holy Days of Obligation: SEE BULLETIN

WELCOME

A warm welcome is extended to all who visit our faith community. We hope you have received a warm greeting as you entered our church today for worship. Carry our blessings home with you and be a light to your family.

PENANCE/RECONCILIATION

Every Saturday 3:30PM-4:00PM; First Friday's from 8:30AM to 9:00AM or anytime by request or appointment. Please do not hesitate to approach Father Seth at any time concerning your desire for confession.

ST. MARIA GORETTI NOVENA

Every Wednesday following the 8:00AM Mass.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Baptisms are scheduled by appointment.
Please call the Parish Office at 570-655-8956.

ROSARY

The Fatima Rosary and Divine Mercy Chaplet are recited each Friday morning after Mass (except on the First Friday of each month). We invite men and women to join us in these beautiful acts of charity.

FIRST FRIDAY

A Holy Hour with Benediction, Exposition and prayers is held the First Friday of every month 8:00AM - 9:00AM.

OFFICE HOURS

Monday through Friday from 9:00AM to 2:00PM.

4TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

In their synagogue was a man with an unclean spirit; he cried out, "What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One of God!" Jesus rebuked him and said, "Quiet! Come out of him!"
- Mk 1:23-25

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

January 31, 2021 - 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time

PASTORAL NOTES

SCRIPTURE INSIGHTS: Jesus' first miracle is an exorcism set in the context of his teaching. Why is this so important? When Jesus entered the synagogue and spoke, the people were amazed at the power and authority with which he taught. The scribes quoted previous experts and authorities for important interpretations of Scripture and the law. The Greek word used to describe Jesus' teaching, *exousia*, means he taught "out of himself." In other words, he did not use other authorities to strengthen his arguments.

Into this context wanders the possessed man. The unclean spirit, a demon in other translations, reveals the identity of Jesus as the Holy One of God. In the Old Testament, particularly in the prophecy of Isaiah, God is the Holy One of Israel. In this passage, in Acts 3:14, and in 1 John 2:20, Jesus is the "Holy One". These similar phrases imply a connection between Jesus and God. Jesus silences the demon, not because it is wrong about his identity, but because the time has not yet come for Jesus to be revealed.

With the confidence of authority, he commands the unclean spirit to come out. The crowd watches in amazement—often a signal that they do not understand what is happening. Their remarks about a new teaching are meant for the reader. Jesus' power is greater than any other power. Even the demons obey him.

Throughout Mark's account, Jesus' identity is revealed by demons who are then silenced, while the people with Jesus come to know who he is only slowly, if at all. The remarkable exorcisms and healings of Jesus defeat the powers of evil that oppose God. But they will soon lead to a greater question for both his followers and his detractors: What is the source of Jesus' authority?

In Mark's account, things happen very quickly. Consequently, when Mark slows down enough to tell the details of the story, the readers pay more attention. What do the details have to say about the nature of Jesus or the unclean spirits?

LITURGY AND LIFE: Today's psalm refrain challenges us each day, each "today," not to harden our hearts if we hear God's voice. That voice may come through events in our ordinary life, or through a unique situation, or even in the weekday Scripture readings for daily mass. However the voice of God comes to you, reflect each night before sleep: "What did I hear? Did I harden or open my heart?"

LIVE THE LITURGY (Inspiration for the week): Most of us are not trail blazers. Throughout history though, there have been many folks who tirelessly and persistently pursued the promptings of their hearts without giving any care to what others thought or trends dictated. Jesus is one of them. St. Teresa of Calcutta and St. Francis of Assisi are examples of others. The rest of us are people who take a more measured look at things, want to test the waters, and take our time choosing what path or person to follow. We need credible witnesses of faith. We need the Moses people in our lives to show us by word and deed who God is and what integrity and a purpose-driven life looks like. They are the pointers to truth, who even though they struggle themselves, seem to embody an unspoken timeless wisdom that just sounds and feels right. Jesus taught with this same type of authority and caught the attention of the greatest of skeptics. They were astonished. Even though we need our human prophets we can also be somewhat prophetic ourselves by putting integrity and conviction behind our embrace of the Gospel. Perhaps much to our surprise, we all have the power to be a credible witness. Are you willing to give it a try?

PENANCE/RECONCILIATION: Every Saturday 3:30PM-4:00PM or anytime by request with appointment. Please do not hesitate to contact Father Seth at any time concerning your desire for confession. **N.B.:** Father Seth will also be hearing Confessions during the First Friday Holy Hour beginning at 8:30am and ending at 9:00am.

FEAST OF ST. BLAISE: A general blessing over the congregation will take place this weekend at all masses for the blessing of the throats in honor of the Feast of St. Blaise. Individual blessings will not take place due to CDC COVID guidelines.

QUESTION OF THE WEEK: The kingdom of God is at hand, within reach. How can I answer God's call and commit myself to help realize the kingdom of God here and now?

January 31, 2021 - 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Weekend of Jan 16-17, 2021

Sacrificial Offering	$4935.00
Christmas	1720.00
Diocesan Collections	
Care & Education of Priests	60.00

Weekend of Jan 23-24, 2021

Sacrificial Offering	$4385.00
Christmas	100.00
Diocesan Collections	
Care & Education of Priests	127.00

Thank you for your continued generosity in supporting your parish.

PARISHIONERS' STATEMENTS

As a cost saving measure, statements will not be sent out to all parishioners for your 2020 contributions. However, if you need one for tax purposes, please contact the Parish Office at 570-655-8956 and we will gladly send you one. In order for credit to be given to your 2020 statement, your contribution must be dated as 2020 and must be in by January 11, 2021.

SCRIPTURE STUDY

Scripture Study during the season of Lent?

We'll try it again!

Deacon Mike is planning on leading a weekly study group focusing on Christ's Passion. We will be using the book Entering the Passion of Jesus: A beginner's guide to Holy Week by Amy-Jill Levine, a well know scripture authority – this book is available on Amazon. We will meet once a week during lent (either Sunday Afternoon or Monday Evening) and cover one chapter each week. As you may recall, we began this last year (about 25 attended), however, we had to cancel after the second week due to the pandemic. We will begin again from Chapter 1 to include any new-comers who may want to join. We will meet in a socially distanced manner with masks in the church hall. If you are interested, please call the rectory office to sign-up and indicate your preference of Sunday Afternoon or Monday

CALENDARS FOR 2021: 2021 Calendars, underwritten by the Corcoran Funeral Home, are available in the church vestibule and office. We are grateful to the Corcoran Funeral Home and family for their generosity and support.

EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP - RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

Embracing Change in Christ

It's officially one month since we popped the champagne, toasted 2021 and wrote down a list of resolutions. This is usually the time when we start to take a good, hard look in the mirror to assess what we have done — or have not done — with the first month of this brand-new year.

New years can be scary, can't they? Full of promise, sure, but also full of room for failure. Full of space for our old baggage, old fears and the continuation of old mistakes.

The same can be said of Christ, and the new life he offers us, if we are brave enough to accept it. Opportunities like that can be intimidating. In that moment, we might find ourselves like the man with the unclean spirit crying out: "What have you to do with me, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us?"

Jesus is a comforter of the afflicted; he is a consoling figure, but he is also a challenging one. Sometimes we have grown attached to our afflictions. The idea of correcting bad habits or forming new ones is frankly terrifying to us. We have a voice deep inside who sees Christ and his invitation to repentance, and it cries out in fear: "I know who you are!"

When we live in the present, disavowing the baggage of the past or fear of the future, we submit ourselves to the promise of redemption. Let us be brave everyday stewards and invite Christ's healing power into our lives. We won't regret it — I'm sure the demoniac never did. — *Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS ©LPi*

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF JANUARY 31st, 2021

Sunday 1/31:	Dt 18:15-20/Ps 95:1-2, 6-7, 7-9 [8]/1 Cor 7:32-35/Mk 1:21-28
Monday 2/1:	Heb 11:32-40/Ps 31:20, 21, 22, 23, 24 [25]/Mk 5:1-20
Tuesday 2/26:	Mal 3:1-4/Ps 24:7, 8, 9, 10 [8]/Heb 2:14-18/Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22-32
Wednesday 2/3:	Heb 12:4-7, 11-15/Ps 103:1-2, 13-14, 17-18a [cf. 17]/Mk 6:1-6
Thursday 2/4:	Heb 12:18-19, 21-24/Ps 48:2-3ab, 3cd-4, 9, 10-11 [cf. 10]/Mk 6:7-13
Friday 2/5:	Heb 13:1-8/Ps 27:1, 3, 5, 8b-9abc [1a]/Mk 6:14-29
Saturday 2/6:	Heb 13:15-17, 20-21/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6 [1]/Mk 6:30-34

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

NEWS • NEWS • NEWS • NEWS • NEWS • NEWS • NEWS • NEWS • NEWS • NEWS

DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Michelle Pinto - 570-905-5713

Notice Regarding Reporting Sexual Abuse of a Minor

It is the policy of the Diocese of Scranton to report any allegation of sexual abuse of a minor to law enforcement. If you are a victim of sexual abuse committed by a priest, deacon, religious or lay employee or volunteer of the Diocese of Scranton, you are encouraged to immediately report the matter to law enforcement. If any priest, deacon, religious, lay employee or volunteer of the Diocese of Scranton has cause or reason to suspect that a minor has been subjected to any form of abuse, including child sexual abuse, the matter will be reported to law enforcement. It is also the policy of the Diocese to adhere to all civil and state regulations. In accordance with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's Child Protective Services Laws, reports of suspected child abuse should also be made immediately by phone to the 24-HourChild Abuse hotline (ChildLine) at 1-800-932-0313 or electronically at www.compass.state.pa.us/cwis To this end, the Diocese is equally committed to adhering to the norms of the Code of Canon Law and to upholding the tenets of the USCCB Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People, which includes supporting victims of sexual abuse in their pursuit of emotional and spiritual well-being. As such, information regarding an allegation of sexual abuse of a minor should also be reported to the Victim Assistance Coordinator, Mary Beth Pacuska at (570-862-7551).

In Loving Memory

John Baran
Regina Baran
Eileen Hoban Clancy
Anthony N. Colonna
Elizabeth Colonna
James L. Conlon, Jr.
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Thomas L. Mahle
Cheta & Mario Malvizzi
Helen Marykwas
Leonard & Gen McHale
Chester & Mary Pietras
Giuseppe Rinaldis
Mr. & Mrs. William Shea
Michael P. Yazurlo

Lighter Side

Converted Bear

A country preacher decided to skip services one Sunday to spend the day hiking in the wilderness. Rounding a sharp bend in the trail, he collided with a bear and was sent tumbling down a steep grade. He landed on a rock and broke both legs.

With the ferocious bear charging at him from a distance, the preacher prayed, "O Lord, I'm so sorry for skipping services today. Please forgive me and grant me just one wish—make a Christian out of that bear that's coming at me!"

At that very instant, the bear skidded to a halt, fell to his knees, clasped his paws together, and began to pray aloud at the preacher's feet: "Dear God, please bless this food I am about to receive."

HOAGIE SALE

Where: Saint John the Evangelist Parish, Pittston

When: Tuesday, February 9 from 2:00-4:00 p.m.

Pickup in the Pastoral Center (former Seton Catholic auditorium). Your choice of Ham, Turkey, and Italian hoagies with lettuce, tomatoes, and cheese will be available for $8 each or 2 for $15, included with a bag of chips and bottle of water. Please call Jane Roche at 570-905-0325 by Friday, February 5 to place your order. We are only accepting advance payment. Masks must be worn and distancing followed at all times during pickup.

Weekly Sunday Mass video available each weekend on our website at www.stmariagoretti-laflin.org, our Facebook page and YouTube channel. Feel free to contact the office with questions.

Website

ST. MARIA GORETTI
&
ST. MARK
PRAY FOR US!

RELIGIOUS SERVICES FOR THE WEEK

Monday, February 1, 2021
8:00am Aloys Baloga by Wife, Marion

Tuesday, February 2, 2021
The Presentation of the Lord
NO MASS

Wednesday, February 3, 2021
Saint Blaise, Bishop and Martyr; Saint Ansgar, Bishop
8:00am Dorothy Albert by Helen & Joe McAndrew

Thursday, February 4, 2021
NO MASS

Friday, February 5, 2021
Saint Agatha, Virgin and Martyr
8:00am Charles & Helen Cavelle,
Pauline & Ray Verdine by Family

Saturday, February 6, 2021
4:30pm Alberto A. & Ruth Ann Agostini
by Maria Elena Agostini

Sunday, February 7, 2021
9:30am People of the Parish

SANCTUARY CANDLES
FOR THE WEEK OF
FEBRUARY 1, 20201
IN LOVING MEMORY OF

In Loving Memory

† Dorothy Albert by Chris & John Baron

ALTAR CANDLES FOR THE
MONTH OF FEBRUARY, 2021
IN LOVING MEMORY OF

In Loving Memory

Joe Wayda by Helen & Joe McAndrew
† Alberto A. & Ruth Ann Agostini
by Maria Elena Agostini

ARE YOU LOOKING FOR SOME TLC FOR YOUR MARRIAGE?

Join us in celebrating National Marriage Week and World Marriage Day, February 7th—14th. Get ideas for celebrating this event together, and register for a virtual marriage enrichment event with Chris and Linda Padgett (English) or Joel and Nora de Loera (Spanish). For details, call Jen Housel at 570-207-2213 x 1104 or visit:
https://www.dioceseofscranton.org/parish-life/community/marriage/enrichment/national-world-marriage-week-february-7-14-2021/

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