



Saint Maria Goretti Church

Reverend Seth Wasnock, Pastor

Reverend Dr. Michael Imbrogno - Deacon

42 Redwood Drive, Laffin, PA 18702

Telephone # 570-655-8956 Fax # 570-655-1746

email: 42redwood@comcast.net www.stmariagoretti-laffin.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 OF LENT

For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come toward the light, so that his works might not be exposed. But whoever lives the truth comes to the light, so that his works may be clearly seen as done in God. - Jn 3:20-21

March 14, 2021 –Fourth Sunday of Lent

PASTORAL NOTES

SCRIPTURE INSIGHTS: Today's Chronicles reading tersely ends the sorrowful story of Judah's disobedience toward God. For this writer, the exile to Babylon was a natural outcome of grievous sin. He was heir to the viewpoint: "If you obey God's commandments, you will prosper. If not, you will perish" (see Deuteronomy 4:25-27, 8:19, 11:13-17, 13:22-28.) In this way the writers explained Israel and Judah's respective defeats by foreign powers as acts of divine justice that had been foretold. In today's text, we can hear the priests' concern that the rituals associated with the code of holiness could no longer be performed. This is reflected in the report of the fiery destruction of the Temple and its vessels and the interpretation of the seventy years of exile as a Sabbath rest for the land. But suddenly the divine sun shines through the storm clouds of the exile when Cyrus proclaims the release of the captives; the people are freed to return to their land, to rebuild their temple, and to restore their spiritual fortunes. For the haggard exiles, the decree was an unimaginable grace, lavish and unexpected, an unparalleled act of Divine Mercy.

Imagining the beneficence of a new king and the state of the returning exiles gives us a perspective on the cornucopia of theological language of Ephesians. The Good News is the proclamation of favor issued by a powerful ruler and generous patron, "rich in mercy" (2:4), with "immeasurable riches of grace" (2:7) that are continually dispensed to the subjects. This generosity is beyond all measure, "far more than we can ask or imagine" (3:20), even when we were like the exiles, victims of our own disobedience, "dead through our trespasses and sins" (2:1,5). This "kindness" is massively out of proportion to what we might have expected. Clearly, this situation is none of our doing but the result of God's unlimited favor. In Christian language, it is "grace", which excludes all boasting and spiritual preening.

LITURGY AND LIFE: "God writes straight with crooked lines." We often say this to encourage ourselves in the darkness of personal, social, or national disaster. Is it true? Witness unfaithful Israel. The people ignored the covenant and were humbled through exile; but, more important, this national disaster showed them that their God was really God of all the earth, a profound theological shift. In the Gospel, Jesus instructs Nicodemus in the mystery of the cross, the ultimate crooked line: "so must the Son of Man be lifted up, so that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life." This week, prepare for the Sacrament of Penance. Examine your own crooked life-line. Mark your turning points, your important encounters, the choices that have made all the difference. Tell your confessor what you learn. Then give thanks to God, who, as Paul says in his Letter to the Ephesians, is "rich in mercy."

LIVE THE LITURGY (Inspiration for the week): God's messengers always seem to get mocked. They speak a truth that some folks do not want to hear. While on the one hand we admire them, we also are quite happy keeping them at a distance. After all, they are not referring to me but someone else, aren't they? We often wrongly conclude that because we may be more avant-garde, contemporary, politically sensitive, and untraditional, we are somehow more in the light than others. People tend to prefer darkness more than light, even the most spiritually sensitive among us. The light always carries with it the richness of God's mercy and compassion which see beyond ideologies and concepts to relationships that cultivate life, earthly and eternal. Every hand of compassion and mercy extended to a human being must always point back to God. The call always involves ordering our lives in accord with our truth and essence of being. As God never forgets us, we must never forget God. Now is the time to take stock of our infidelity and return to the light, even though it is difficult to look at.

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.

QUESTION OF THE WEEK: How does the undeserved mercy God shows me inform the way I treat those who have wronged me or those whom I see as sinners?

UPCOMING EVENTS AT ST. MARIA GORETTI

SCRIPTURE STUDY: is being held in the Parish Hall on Sunday evenings during Lent at 4:30 pm.

ROAD TO RESURRECTION SERIES: will not be held this year in the Pittston Deanery due to COVID restrictions. The church of Our Lady of the Eucharist will have evening prayer on Sunday Evenings at 5:00 pm on February 28th through March 21st.

PASTA DINNER: will be held on Sunday, March 21st from noon to 4:00 pm. Volunteer sign-up sheets are available in the vestibule of the church as usual or you may call the parish office.

Deacon Mike

THE LIGHT IS ON FOR YOU: During Mondays in Lent, Father Seth will be hearing confessions in the church from 5:30pm to 6:00pm.

March 14, 2021 –Fourth Sunday of Lent

Weekend of March 6-7, 2021

Sacrificial Offering	\$4690.00
Diocesan Collections	
Care & Education of Priests	156.00

**Thank you for your continued generosity
in supporting your parish.**

SUPPORT THE MERIT AWARD

In our packet of envelopes, the March 14th envelope requests help with our Merit Awards this year. Usually we have the funds from the Harvest Tea dedicated to pay the largest part of the awards. The remainder is paid by these envelopes. We were unable to hold the Harvest Tea due to the pandemic. The Monsignor Gray Merit Award recognizes our young people as they graduate from High School and move along in their chosen careers. This year we need your help more than ever. Please be as generous as you can when contributing through the envelope in your packet. Our High School Seniors thank you.

EASTER LILY MEMORIALS

Once again, you will have an opportunity to memorialize or honor someone during Easter by taking one of the yellow envelopes which are in the church foyer. For an offering of \$15, someone of your choice will be remembered during this coming Easter Season. We will have to have the information as you request no later than March 29th for inclusion in the bulletin on Easter.



RICE BOWLS.

As usual during Lent, Rice Bowls can be found in the foyer of the Church. 75% of your CRS Rice Bowl donation supports Catholic Relief Services work around the world. 25% helps fight hunger and poverty in your own community.

Through CRS Rice Bowl, you help reach more than 159 million people with lifesaving support. To learn more go to crsricebowl.org.

Ham and Cabbage Dinner

Holy Family Parish, 828 Main Street, Sugar Notch will be holding their annual Ham & Cabbage Dinner on Saturday, March 20th from 3 PM to 6 PM. The dinner will be take outs only. The cost is \$12.00 and tickets are currently available.

For further information, please contact the parish rectory at (570)822-8983.

Potato Pancake Sale

A St. Joseph Day Potato Pancake Sale will be held on Friday, March 19 from 12-6 p.m. in the garage behind the rectory at Sacred Heart of Jesus Church, 215 Lackawanna Ave, Dupont. The potato pancakes will be sold on a first-come, first-served basis for \$10 a dozen and \$5 for a half dozen.

BISHOP BAMBERA'S STATEMENT REGARDING COVID VACCINES

With considerable media attention being paid to COVID-19 vaccines at this time, I want to provide you with a statement that I will be issuing today (March 4, 2021). I welcome you to use this statement to help answer any questions that may arise.

"The COVID-19 pandemic has caused tremendous grief and fear in our country and world over the last year, leaving more than 500,000 dead in the United States alone.

"I want to be clear and concise in my pastoral guidance regarding COVID-19 vaccines. Given the grave danger this virus poses, it is morally acceptable to receive any of the current COVID-19 vaccines that have been determined to be clinically safe and effective. This position is supported by the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith.

"People should not delay getting a vaccine. Receiving a vaccine not only protects an individual's health but also serves the common good by protecting the community – including the weak and vulnerable.

"While fully recognizing the complex moral and ethical issues involved in vaccine development, at this time, most people are not being given a true choice of which vaccine they receive, and likely won't be able to make such a choice without a lengthy delay.

"Given that risk to public health, the faithful can in good conscience receive any of the current vaccines."

-----Faithfully yours in Christ,

† *Joseph C. Bambera*

Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, D.D., J.C.L.
Bishop of Scranton

March 14, 2021 –Fourth Sunday of Lent

Celebrate the Year of Saint Joseph!

The Annual Solemn Novena to Saint Joseph, will begin on Wednesday, March 10th, at the Oblates of Saint Joseph Chapel, Route 315, Laflin. Masses are daily at 8:00AM, 12:00 Noon and 7:00PM each day, followed by Novena prayers and a general blessing with the first-class relic of Saint Joseph Marelo, Founder of the Oblates of Saint Joseph. Each Mass is preceded by the recitation of the Rosary. Confessions are heard at 11:30AM and 6:30PM each day. Mass at 12:00Noon will be broadcast on JMJ Catholic Radio and livestreamed on the Oblate Facebook Page and later posted on the website (www.osjseminary.com).

The Solemnity Feast of Saint Joseph, Friday, March 19th, will include Masses at 8:00AM, at 12 Noon and a Solemn Pontifical Mass at 7:00PM with Bishop Joseph C. Bambera, as principal celebrant and homilist. COVID regulations mandated by the diocese will be respected at all Masses during the novena and feast day.

In Loving Memory

*John Baran
Regina Baran
Eileen Hoban Clancy
Anthony N. Colonna
Elizabeth Colonna
James L. Conlon, Jr.
James A. Dougherty
William J. Emmel
Robert Faber
Mary & Martin Gallagher Family
James J. Giamas
Walter & Celestine Gottlieb
Stanley Harenza
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

DID NOAH FISH?



A Sunday school teacher asked, 'Johnny, do you think Noah did a lot of fishing when he was on the Ark?'

'No,' replied Johnny. 'How could he, with just two worms?'

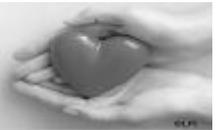
PASTA DINNER NEXT WEEKEND!!



Our Spring Pasta Dinner is scheduled for March 21, 2021. It will be take-out only as was our Fall Pasta dinner. We will be looking for volunteers as we always do. Our Fall dinner was a success both in terms of attendance and volunteer help. Let's all keep the date open and look forward to the same success. Tickets were mailed to each parishioner and will be available at the door. Please purchase as many as possible.

We will also be holding a basket raffle. If you can help us out by donating a gift certificate or lottery tickets, they will also help out. Please drop them off at the parish office or in the collection basket.

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St. Maria Goretti Laflin *The Sunday Mass*



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



YouTube



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



RELIGIOUS SERVICES FOR THE WEEK

Monday, March 15, 2021
8:00am Margaret (Peggy) Sosnak
 by Carol Fisher & Family
5:30pm to 6:00pm THE LIGHT IS ON FOR YOU
 (CONFESSIONS IN THE CHURCH)
Tuesday, March 16, 2021
 NO MASS
Wednesday, March 17, 2021
Saint Patrick, Bishop
8:00am Mary & Martin Gallagher
 by the Estate of Margaret Gallagher
Thursday, March 18, 2021
Saint Cyril of Jerusalem, Bishop and Doctor of the Church
 NO MASS
Friday, March 19, 2021
Saint Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary
8:00am Mary Lou McNulty
 by Carol, Dennis and Brandon McNulty
5:30pm Stations of the Cross
Saturday, March 20, 2021
4:30pm People of the Parish
Sunday, March 21, 2021
9:30am Dr. Joseph Lombardo
 by Michael, Christine & Ashlynn Dunleavy

 **SANCTUARY CANDLES**
FOR THE WEEK OF
MARCH 14, 2021
IN LOVING MEMORY OF
 † Agnes & Michael Harenza by Mrs. Genevieve Harenza
 † Samuel Collura, Sr. by Family

 We extend our deepest sympathy to the family of Anna Geary who entered into eternal life this past week.

RESERVATIONS

We will require reservations for our Masses on Palm Sunday and also on Easter Sunday.

The schedule of Masses is as follows:

PALM SUNDAY:

Saturday, March 27th - 4:30 PM

Sunday, March 28th - 9:30 AM

EASTER VIGIL, April 3—8:00 PM

(NO RESERVATIONS REQUIRED)—THIS MASS ONLY

Sunday, April 4th—EASTER SUNDAY 9:30 & 11:00 AM


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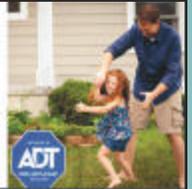


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