



3rd Sunday of Lent

The Samaritan woman said to him, "How can you, a Jew, ask me, a Samaritan woman, for a drink?" Jesus answered and said to her, "If you knew the gift of God and who is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him and he would have given you living water." *Jn 4:9a, 10*

*Saint Mary's Church of the Immaculate Conception
Our Lady of Fatima Parish
134 South Washington Street
Wilkes-Barre, PA 18701
(570)823-4168*

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT MARCH 7, 2021



THIS SUNDAY'S SCRIPTURE

EXODUS 17:3-7
ROMANS 5:1-2, 5-8
JOHN 4:5-42

NEXT SUNDAY'S SCRIPTURE

1 SAMUEL 16:1, 6-7, 10-13
EPHESIANS 5:8-14
JOHN 9:1-41

LORD GOD,
YOUR HOLY SPIRIT HAS BEEN POURED OUT
IN OUR HEARTS

(second reading)

LIKE LIVING WATER.

(gospel reading)

GRANT US TO HEAR HIS VOICE

(responsorial psalm)

THAT WE MAY EVER KNOW

YOU ARE IN OUR MIDST,

(first reading)

CENTER OF OUR THOUGHTS,
STRENGTH BEHIND OUR DEEDS.
AMEN.

Mass Schedule

WEEKEND MASS SCHEDULE —IN CHURCH

Saturday, 4PM

Sunday, 10AM, 12:10PM and 7PM

With social distancing, seating is limited to 80 worshipers and face masks are required NO EXCEPTIONS.

WEEKDAY MASS SCHEDULE—ST. THERESE CHAPEL

Monday, and Friday 12:10PM

There will be **no** Wednesday Mass until further notice

With social distancing, seating is limited to 24 worshipers and face masks are required NO EXCEPTIONS.

The Light Is On for You

The Church encourages us to make confession a regular part of our spiritual life, especially during the holy season of Lent, as we reflect on our baptism and repentance. Again this year, parishes are participating in a Lenten initiative called *The Light Is On for You*. Every Monday evening during the Lenten season, beginning on the first Monday of Lent, February 22nd, confessions will be heard in every parish from 5:30PM to 7PM so that Catholics can come to or return to this incredible source of God's grace, mercy and healing.



EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP - RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

Parents Just Don't Understand

Anybody remember the old rap song by the Fresh Prince, aka Will Smith, "*Parents Just Don't Understand?*" As we grow up, it is sometimes a struggle for us to imagine that our parents understand us. It can seem impossible that Mom and Dad remember the stress of exam week or peer pressure. We never saw them as children; we never saw their disappointed faces when they weren't invited to a party, or their dashed hopes at a bad test grade. We never saw them homesick their first week of college or nervous to ask their crush to Homecoming.

We're often the same way about God. We gripe about what He asks of us. "*He doesn't understand sin — he's all-good,*" we think. "*He doesn't understand temptation — He is perfect.*"

In Scripture, God can be very much a father, telling us what we can and cannot do. And yet, in His divine genius, He is sometimes simply a man at a well, asking for a drink. For me, it turns out I didn't need to tell my parents anything about what I was going through as a kid — they knew already. What I needed was for them to tell me what to do, and how to do it.

Similarly, we don't need to tell God about human nature. We need God to tell us about His nature. He's good enough to ask us for a drink, to enter into our humanity. But we have to remember, for our own sakes, to have the humility to ask Him for something, too — the water that will quench our eternal thirst.



STATIONS OF THE CROSS

The Stations of the Cross will be celebrated at St. Nicholas Church on Fridays at 1:30 PM (with the school students). Traditional Stations of the Cross will be celebrated at 5:15 PM.

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. 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-Hour Child Abuse hotline (ChildLine) at 1-800-932-0313 or electronically at www.compass.state.pa.us/cwis It is also the policy of the Diocese to adhere to all civil and state regulations. 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 wellbeing. 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) or to Diocesan officials, including the Vicar General, Monsignor Thomas M. Muldowney, V.G., at (570-207-2269).



Sacrificial Giving

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Sunday Offering	\$	5,081.00
Sunday Loose	\$	86.00
Parish Membership	\$	447.00
Diocesan Charity	\$	84.00
Ash Wednesday	\$	180.00
Easter	\$	25.00
Initial	\$	10.00
Parish Maintenance	\$	143.00
Parish Priest Health	\$	10.00
Diocesan Priest Health	\$	48.00
Eastern Churches	\$	86.00
Utilities	\$	3.00
Insurance	\$	23.00
Religious Education	\$	179.00
Catholic Schools	\$	111.00
Human Services (Gift)	\$	1,000.00
Human Services	\$	106.00
TOTAL	\$	7,622.00

Mass Count

4PM— 80 10AM— 70
12:10PM— 55 7PM— 75
Weekend Total— 280

GOSPEL MEDITATION - ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE

March 7, 2021 — 3rd Sunday of Lent

Many prefer a “create as you go” approach to life where laws and protocols primarily exist to secure and protect liberties rather than dictate and outline proper and right behavior. There are no real benchmarks for acceptable ethical and moral behavior, with a “you can’t tell me what to do” attitude prevailing. Parents are even limited in what they can request of their children, and dealing with threatening behaviors, especially from adults, are a challenge as well. Acceptable and expected conduct seems to amount to safeguarding each other’s space rather than increasing awareness of necessary relationships that require a more refined and higher response.

We have lost our axis to the world of “anything goes” and no longer see the Ten Commandments as practical and wise guideposts to effective living. We live on “relativism island” where only a possible suggestion to “love and do not harm” may be the only standard able to be preached. While Jesus most certainly emphasized love above anything else, it was never about warm fuzzy feelings or halfhearted humanitarian efforts. The love of which Jesus spoke establishes an intimate connection with God, neighbor, self, and creation. Because this love, who is God Himself, is at the foundational core of our lives, it demands actions and attitudes that serve to build up, increase, and free up those relationships. Love requires proper conduct. Preserving and enhancing these love centered relationships is at the heart of the Ten Commandments (and the Beatitudes) and the reason for Jesus’ display of anger in the temple.

The Ten Commandments can save the world from turmoil and conflict by instilling basic moral and relational principles within us. They also hold a healthy sense of sin in balance and always remind us of our relationship with God and the freedom God offers. Our faith preserves these jewels of truth that we often look beyond, dismiss altogether, or seek to remove from public view. Human beings can be so arrogant at times. Our Lenten journey, especially when embarked upon with sincerity and resolve, can restore all of our essential relationships. When we get absorbed in life’s preoccupations and demands, things can quickly get distorted and we can find ourselves way off track. In short, we find ourselves in sin. Humanity is losing a sense of both grace and sin. We need both to understand what is real and true. Until we do, the oppressive systems and ideologies that hurt so many will never change. We will never change. We are grateful for those courageous souls who willingly embrace the conversion and hard work Lent demands and stand against antiquated systems and ideologies. They give us hope that all is not lost.

Masses For The Week

MONDAY– MARCH 8 (LENTEN WEEKDAY/

ST. JOHN OF GOD)

12:10PM *Thomas Washington*

TUESDAY– 9 (LENTEN WEEKDAY/

ST. FRANCES OF ROME)

****NO MASS****

WEDNESDAY– 10 (LENTEN WEEKDAY)

****NO MASS****

THURSDAY– 11 (LENTEN WEEKDAY)

****NO MASS****

FRIDAY—12 (LENTEN WEEKDAY)

12:10PM *Louise White-Wasco*

WEEKEND SCHEDULE

SATURDAY– MARCH 13

4:00PM *MASS*

SUNDAY– MARCH 14

10:00AM *MASS*

12:10PM *MASS*

7:00PM *MASS*

PARISH MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name _____

Address _____

Phone No. _____

Please check one:

I am new in the parish & wish to register

Change of Address

Moving out of Parish

Please drop Membership Form into the offertory basket or mail to the Parish Office: 134 S. Washington Street, Wilkes-Barre, PA 18701.



A Novena to St. Anthony of Padua will be conducted every Tuesday at 5:30PM at Our Lady of Hope Parish, 40 Park Avenue, Wilkes-Barre. The devotion will be for 13 consecutive Tuesdays starting March 16th to June 8th. The theme of this year's Novena is "Venerable Matt Talbot, Patron Saint of those Fighting additions to Alcohol. For more information please call 570-824-

MISSION STATEMENT

WE, THE CATHOLIC CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY OF OUR LADY OF FATIMA PARISH AT ST. MARY'S CHURCH OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION, ARE CALLED TO A FOUR*FOLD MISSION:

- ***TO PROCLAIM THE GOOD NEWS OF SALVATION REVEALED IN JESUS CHRIST;***
- ***TO WORSHIP GOD IN SPIRIT AND IN TRUTH;***
- ***TO BE TRANSFORMED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT IN A COMMUNITY OF FAITH, HOPE AND LOVE;***
- ***TO BRING GOD'S JUSTICE AND PEACE TO OTHERS THROUGH SERVICE.***

THE SYMBOLS OF LENT



DESERT—Deserts are barren, empty, dry, areas where one must sacrifice to survive. Much of the sacrifices we strive to make during Lent have the same characteristics. By the way, Jesus’ forty days of fasting before he began his public ministry—during which he was tempted by the devil—took place in the desert: “The Holy Spirit led Jesus into the desert, so that the devil could test him.” (Matthew 4:12 and Luke 4:1).

Holy Family Parish, 828 Main Street, Sugar Notch will be holding their annual *Ham & Cabbage Dinner* on **Saturday, March 20th from 3PM to 6PM**. The dinner will be take outs only. The cost is \$12 and tickets are currently available. For further information, please contact the parish rectory at (570)822-8983.

FASTING FOR LENT: When most people fast they usually give up some food or beverage. Consider the following:

- Fast from criticism and feast on praise.*
- Fast from self-pity and feast on joy.*
- Fast from ill-temper and feast on peace.*
- Fast from jealousy and feast on contentment.*
- Fast from pride and feast on humility.*
- Fast from selfishness and feast on service.*
- Fast from fear and feast on faith.*

PLEASE NOTE: FRIENDLY REMINDER



Face Masks are required at all Masses and must be worn properly. According to regulations, the mask must be covering the mouth and nose at all times when in a public gathering. The mask must remain until you exit the church and are no longer in the proximity of others. Thank you to everyone for your vigilance in this matter.

Wedding Anniversary Mass

The 2021 Wedding Anniversary Mass will be held on June 6th, 2021. We hope to offer an in person celebration this year, but the details of that event will be governed by the progress made in reducing risks of Coronavirus. More information about the 2021 Wedding Anniversary Mass, and about how jubilant couples can register, will be forthcoming in early Spring.

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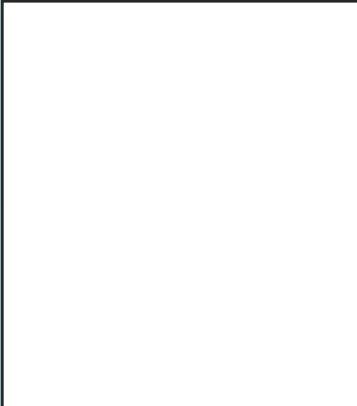
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