

A photograph of a wooden cross and a crown of thorns against a purple background. The cross is on the left, and the crown of thorns is on the right. The text "FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT" is overlaid in the center.

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

**Our Lady of Hope Parish
40 Park Avenue, Wilkes-Barre, PA 18702
570-824-7832**

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

FEBRUARY 18, 2024



MASS INTENTIONS

Sunday February 18, 2024

10:30 AM Genevieve Buczynski - God Child,
Mary Frances

Tuesday February 20, 2024

8:00 AM All Souls - Parishioner

Friday February 23, 2024

8:00 AM Anthony D. English Sr. - Sons, Tony & John

Saturday February 24, 2024

4:00 PM Stanley Orbik - Wife, Ann

Sunday February 25, 2024

10:30 AM Stanley Wielgopolski - Wife, Ann & Family

SANCTUARY VOTIVES - End of War

BLESSED MOTHER VOTIVE - In Memory of
Tedd Richards - By Mother

<u>SUNDAY COLLECTION</u>	\$4,582.00
<u>LOOSE</u>	\$403.00
<u>CEMETERY HOLY TRINITY</u>	\$217.00
<u>CEMETERY ST. MARY'S MATERNITY</u>	\$602.00

VISIT FROM BISHOP BAMBERA - I recently was notified that Bishop Bambera has decided to visit our parish and lead a **Holy Hour** on **March 18, 2024**. This is a very special opportunity for us. The Bishop himself decided to be with us. It is important to mark your calendar and come that day. Your presence and participation is very important. Soup & Sandwiches will be served at the Parish Center free of charge. Sign ups are required. More details to follow.

ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA DEVOTION - The thirteen week Devotion in honor of St. Anthony will soon begin in March. The theme will continue on the Real Presence of Christ in the Blessed Sacrament- entitled "The Blessed Sacrament-Miracle of all Miracles."

CHRISTIAN WOMEN - The Christian Women of Our Lady of Hope Parish will meet on Wednesday, February 28, 2024 at 6:30 PM in the parish rectory. All women of the parish are invited to attend.

DIOCESAN ANNUAL APPEAL - We are still \$5,000.00 Short of our goal. Please make a pledge to help our Parish and our Diocese. Keep our Parish alive!

"FORTY DAYS FOR LIFE" - February 14-March 22 Offered for the special intentions of ending abortion and closure of Planned Parenthood location in Wilkes-Barre. Rosary is prayed each weekday, Monday thru Friday at 10AM in front of the offices of Planned Parenthood, 101 N. Main St., Wilkes-Barre (across from King's College). Pro-life campaign draws attention to the evil of abortion through prayer & fasting, constant vigil, and community outreach.

LENTEN BOOKLETS - Available are spiritual reflection booklets for your spiritual benefit. They are free. For all concerned, they are: Walking in His Ways by Emily Jaminet; Returning to God by Henri Nouwen and Called to be Holy by Pope John Paul II, Pope Benedict and Pope Francis; A Season of Hope for Seniors; Sow, Now It's Lent for Teens and young adults and for the youngsters, Heroes for Lent and Be Like Jesus. There is a limited number of booklets. Please be considerate of others.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS - Every Friday beginning this Friday, we will observe this Lenten devotion at 5:30 PM. Booklets will be provided. Come and join us as we begin our Lenten journey.

SOCIAL CONCERNS LENTEN OUTREACH

Lent is just a couple of weeks away. Every Lent, besides the usual Lenten sacrifices, we like to make a special charitable outreach to some local need. Many of our local youngsters ages 10-13 could use basic hygienic items. Last year, over \$4,000.00 worth of various items were donated to local children. Here are some requested items: soap and shampoo (please be aware of Afro-American specific type); combs and brushes; toothpaste and tooth brushes; girls personal change of life kits; t-shirts and underwear, etc. Place your donations in the usual place on the altar railing area.

LENTEN MEN'S RETREAT - March 15-16 at Holy Transfiguration Retreat Center in Dalton. The Theme will be "Spiritual Direction: I'm Not Lost - I'm Wondering". We will be examining the spiritual journey of men in our world and moving from wandering to wondering about God's will in our lives. The cost of the retreat is only \$75 for an overnight including food. There will be a number of Holy Priests including Fr. Pio Mandato, Fr. Stan Fortuna and Fr. Brian Van Fossen with adoration, confession and Holy Mass celebrated by our Bishop Joseph Bambera. This will be a great way to renew our hearts and minds before Easter. Please register by following this link:
<https://beacatholicman.com/register-for-retreat-1>

OPERATION RICE BOWL - Sacrificial Offerings during Lent can be made using the Lenten Envelopes throughout Lent. We can also use the Rice Bowls in addition. Place them somewhere in your home (kitchen, bedroom, family room, etc.) and drop in them, something for the hungry of the world.

LENTEN RAFFLE - Drawing March 3rd after mass. Since we have an updated ticket, it was decided to hold the raffle on the Sunday of Rejoicing, the Third Sunday of Lent. You should have received your tickets. If not, or if you need more, just contact the parish office during office hours - Monday thru Friday, 9AM-12:30PM.

LENTEN TAIZÉ PRAYER - On Sunday, February 25th at 3:00 PM, members of Cantores Christi Regis of King's College, Wilkes-Barre, will present Lenten Taizé Prayer at Saint John the Evangelist Church, 35 William St in Pittston. These students, under the direction of Mr. Robert Yenkowski, will lead us in sung prayer in a candlelit church. All are invited to attend.

ST. JOSEPH'S TABLE - In the month of February, the St. Vincent de Paul Kitchen is asking if we could help by donating sugar/sweeteners. It's an extra Lenten penance. God Bless.

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LIGHT IS ON-CONFESSIONS - Confessions will be heard on Monday evenings during Lent. They will be scheduled the last two Mondays before Holy Week. A Penance Service will be held at St. Nicholas (TBD).

SUNDAY RELECTION

Today's Gospel reading shows us the first thing that Jesus did after his baptismal anointing in the Jordan River: He wrestled with temptation. His baptism had marked the moment of his complete surrender to the Father's will. As he arose from the water, he began a new life of ministry. The Father responded by telling him that he was very pleased, and the Holy Spirit filled his humanness. Jesus as God already had the Holy Spirit (he and the Spirit were the same God), but Jesus the fully human Son now came fully alive in the Spirit. We can imagine how this experience in the Jordan River gave him the feeling of an elated spiritual high. And the next thing that happens is an attack of the devil. The same pattern repeats itself in our lives. As soon as we experience new growth in our faith, or a new calling to do the Father's will, we run smack into a situation that tests the strength and sincerity of our faith. However, if this didn't happen, how would we know that we are ready to make a significant difference for the kingdom of God? Sometimes without consciously thinking it, we decide that if we're going to be tested and we might lose, wouldn't it be better not to start something new? Well, that's another temptation! Lent is the perfect time to examine the temptations that we face every day and turn them into new growth that will strengthen our faith. Every time we face a sin and seek God's forgiveness, we become stronger. And if we take it a step farther by walking into the confessional with it, we also receive powerful graces directly from Jesus, through the priest, that will render temptations much more powerless. And this makes us more useful to God in the mission of conquering evil in the world and helping his kingdom spread into the lives of the people around us. Think of temptations as blessings in disguise: Use them as opportunities to become more like Jesus and grow powerful in the faith.

Think about this: How quickly do you rely on the faith that God has given you to say no to the devil's tricks?

“Right, wrong, choose.”
-God



**FROM
THE
PASTOR**

When I was on Retreat last year, the theme was Renewing Our Hearts. I'd like to share with you, as we begin this Lenten Season, suggestions to keep our hearts in good shape through interior (spiritual) exercises to strengthen our relationship with God. Try to keep your heart in good shape by engaging in some of these concrete practices or activities to strengthen our relationship with others.

Interior Spiritual Practices: Methods of Prayer:

Lectio Divina, using a text of scripture or a short passage of spiritual reading book, read it slowly. You might go back to a phrase or a word that strikes your heart and repeat it. You are not reading for information, but for transformation.

Go Slow: Taste the words, digest the thought. Remembering it during the day, e.g., if God is for us, who can be against us? God who did not spare His own Son but handed Him over to us all, how will God not also give us everything else along with Him? Who will bring a charge against God's chosen ones? It is God who acquits us. Who will condemn? Christ Jesus who it is who died, or rather was raised, who also is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. (Romans 8:31 b-34). This is another suggestion based upon St. Alphonsus that builds on the above.

Beginning: Still your mind and heart. Put yourself in the presence of God by making an act of faith, of humility, ask for light and strength from the Holy Spirit. Read a short passage from Scripture or a spiritual book.

Meditate/Reflect on what was read, what it means, what it teaches you.

Contemplate: Be still in the presence of God.

Prayers of Petition: Pray for the graces you need for daily living and for the needs of the world.

Resolution: Make one practical resolution you can do today.

Conclusion: Thank God for whatever grace you have received and ask for help to keep your resolution.

Part II, next week - Examination of Conscience and Exterior Spiritual Practices.

LOTTERY WINNERS

February 7, 2024	336	
February 8, 2024	554	
February 9, 2024	694	
February 10, 2024	111	John P.