

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



5th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

He told them, “Let us go on to the nearby villages that I may preach there also. For this purpose have I come.” - Mk 1:38



MASS INTENTIONS

Sunday February 4, 2024

10:30 AM Dottie Fisher - Friends of her family

Tuesday February 6, 2024

8:00 AM Jay Snee - Mary Kay Yurkavage

Friday February 9, 2024

8:00 AM Eleanor Zedolik - Husband & Children

Saturday February 10, 2024

4:00 PM Michael Braden - Bruce and Siblings

Sunday February 11, 2024

10:30 AM Mary Nguyen & Mary Nguyen - Nephew

SANCTUARY VOTIVES - End of War

BLESSED MOTHER VOTIVE - In Memory of Dorothy Panzak - By Friend, Geraldine Revitt

SACRED HEART VOTIVE - In Memory of Raphael and Theresa Procida - By Carolyn Graziano

<u>SUNDAY COLLECTION</u>	\$5,094.50
<u>LOOSE</u>	\$371.00
<u>TAXES</u>	\$921.00
<u>AIR CONDITIONING</u>	\$501.00
<u>CHURCH IN LATIN AMERICA</u>	\$359.00

Sexual Abuse Policy: 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-Hour Child 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.

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.

HOLY REDEEMER HIGH SCHOOL INCOMING FRESHMAN - Appointments for class scheduling for new students for the 2024-2025 school year will be held on **February 6,7 and 8 from 3:00 to 5:45 PM**. Call Holy Redeemer High School's Guidance Department at 570-829-2424 to set an appointment.

DIOCESAN ANNUAL APPEAL - We are still at \$29,000.00 on our goal of \$35,000.00. It's on par with previous years. A number of you who haven't yet made a pledge can make a big difference. It's really important this year, especially since the Bishop will be visiting. Please help!

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.

The people of Our Lady of Hope Parish are called to be a welcoming community of faith, hope and love.

PARISH MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name _____

Address _____

Phone No. _____

Please check one:

I am new in the parish & wish to register

Change of Address or Phone Number

Moving out of Parish

Please drop Membership Form into the offertory basket or mail to the Parish office.

FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

FEBRUARY 4, 2024

LENTEN RAFFLE - 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 receive your tickets shortly. If not, or if you need more, just contact the parish office during office hours - Monday thru Friday, 9AM-12:30PM.



**FROM
THE
PASTOR**

SUNDAY REFLECTION

Jesus tells us: “You are the salt of the earth.” What does it mean to be salt? Think about what salt does. It adds flavor to foods that lack sufficient taste. Jesus also raises the point that if we lose our flavor, how can it be restored? The answer is: Only by letting God renew us. In your baptism, you were made flavorful-alive with God’s love, peace, joy, etc. Fruitful Christians are those who evangelize by adding the seasoning of God’s life-God’s love, peace, joy, etc.-to the lives of the people around them. But beware of trying too hard! What happens when food is over-salted? It tastes horrible. No matter how good our intentions might be, if we come on too strong, we do more harm than good. People are much more likely to turn to Jesus if they first experience his love from us, his peace in how we treat them, and his joy in the way we live our lives. They need to discover that Jesus loves them just the way they are, that he is gentle but sincere when inviting them to grow spiritually, and that he can help them turn hardships and troubles into blessings and joys. Jesus also tells us to be a light that others cannot help but notice - but not a light that blinds. To flavor the lives of others with the presence of Jesus, we have to let his light shine in us. We have to be so lit up by Christ that others cannot help but notice. Additionally, Jesus says that we have to be a city. We cannot evangelize alone. A “city” is a group of Christians: a parish, a family, a church organization. Being Christian means being in community. When our light is joined to the light of others, our collective glow is much more effective in revealing Christ to the world. Why? Because non-believers learn that the love of Christ is real when they see us living in love with each other: unconditionally, generously, with a servant’s heart (see Acts 2:42-47). We are the light of Christ for each other. We are seasoning for each other. Without each other, our light dims, our flavor fades, and we become useless to God’s kingdom.

REFLECT - What obstructs the light of Christ within you? What in you needs to change so that the people around you can see him better?

This Thursday, February 8th is dedicated as International Day of Prayer and Awareness against Human Trafficking. This issue is one of the many moral collapses in our country and yes, even in our own backyard. People (especially children) are kidnapped, bought and sold like animals. It is a serious concern but one we have little concern or awareness of. Each year, an estimated 17,000 vulnerable men, women and children are trafficked across our borders and then forced into slavery. Many are fleeing situations in home countries and come to the United States to find a better life. Unfortunately, the nightmare often begins when they reach our shores. Pope Francis is the one who asked for this day. He pointed out that this illegal industry affects over 36 million people around the world and generates \$150 Billion in annual profits. He chose this date because it happens to be the feast of St. Josephine Bakhita, considered a patron for trafficking victims. Born in 1868 in Darfur, Sudan, she was kidnapped at the age of nine and sold into slavery, first in her country and later in Italy. She died in 1947 and was declared a saint by Pope John Paul II in 2000. “For those who cry out - Usually in silence - for liberation, St. Josephine Bakhita is an exemplary witness of hope.” If you would like to investigate this issue, go to the interactive website:

“A LIGHT AGAINST HUMAN TRAFFICKING.” Besides the initiatives to combat this issue, the site includes the testimony of victims, survivors, and family members of those killed in slavery. We need more than to pray but to take action.

LITURGY MEETING - The committee will meet this coming Tuesday, February 6th at 6:00PM in the rectory. Discussions will concern Lent and the upcoming Bishop’s Visit and Holy Hour.

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.

LOTTERY WINNERS

January 24, 2024	763	Russ H.
January 25, 2024	449	
January 26, 2024	162	
January 27, 2024	971	Bob Flynn