

1st Sunday of Lent – February 18, 2024

"This is the time of fulfillment. The kingdom of God is at hand.
Repent, and believe in the gospel." – Mark 1:15



READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Sun: Gn 9:8-15/1 Pt 3:18-22/Mk 1:12-15

Mon: Lv 19:1-2, 11-18/Mt 25:31-46

Tue: Is 55:10-11/Mt 6:7-15

Wed: Jon 3:1-10/Lk 11:29-32

Thu: 1 Pt 5:1-4/Mt 16:13-19

Fri: Ez 18:21-28/Mt 5:20-26

Sat: Dt 26:16-19/Mt 5:43-48

MASSES FOR THE WEEK

Saturday –	February 17	4:00 PM	Kathleen McGrath (John & Sally McGrath)
Sunday –	February 18	9:00 AM	Paul Kurosky – 10 year anniversary of his death (Cheryl Kurosky)
Monday –	February 19	12:00 PM	Michael Podrasky (deceased)
Tuesday –	February 20	12:00 PM	Catherine & Peter Povanda (deceased)
Wednesday –	February 21	12:00 PM	Ad intentionem dantis
Thursday –	February 22	12:00 PM	Eleanor Kurosky – 5 year anniversary of her death (Cheryl Kurosky)
Friday –	February 23	12:00 PM	Maggie Podrasky – for good health
Saturday –	February 24	4:00 PM	Marie Cavanaugh (Sam & Bev Arnold & Family)
Sunday –	February 25	9:00 AM	Michael Hibbard (Mom & Dad)



1st Reading: Genesis 9: 8-15

This was the first covenant made between God and humanity. Unlike the Old Testament covenants to follow, which were ostensibly made between God and the Chosen People, this was intended as a pledge to all humankind *as well as* all other living creatures. It is no coincidence that God's first covenant is non-specific regarding the human family and the last covenant, salvation through Jesus Christ, also embraces all humankind. It is also interesting to consider that God included *all life forms*, not just humans, in the covenant.

2nd Reading: 1 Peter 3: 18-22

Peter (or perhaps a later scribe) connects up the symbol of water flooding the world with baptism. It is likely that this was understood as the water buoying up the eight humans on the surface of destruction much as the waters of baptism lift humans up sacramentally to salvation. The author makes it clear that the water of baptism does not wash away physical 'dirt', but the spiritual sort. To recognize that Christ's salvation has taken away sin is the message.

Gospel Reading: Mark 1:2-15

Mark's version of Christ's desert experience seems very short and almost terse when compared to Matthew and Luke. But, curiously, Mark suggests something that the other two do not: *He was among wild beasts, and the angels ministered to him.* Mark also says nothing about Jesus fasting for the forty days. Some commentators believe that this was intended to suggest that the angels fed Jesus during the forty days, much the way the Israelites were fed manna during their forty years in the desert. Whatever the reason for this difference, the result was the same: Jesus was symbolically prepared during His desert experience for the ministry to follow; as God prepared the Israelites for the Promised Land, Jesus was prepared for announcing the Kingdom of God to all humankind.



MEMBERS OF THE HOLY NAME OF MARY PRAYER CHAIN are available to pray for you or your loved ones in need of prayer. Please call Maureen Van Nostrand at: 570-278-4590.

We remember in prayer those who are ill & pained in body, heart & mind. We pray especially for Bonnie Arcovitch, Betsy Arnold & her family, Richard Arnold, Anne Belles, Jerry Blodgett, Ralph Blodgett, Brad Booker, Ellen Booker, Brad Bozzo, Al Breiner, Katie Calvin, JoAnne Catlin, Becky Cole, Aiden Conklin, David Conklin Jr., Debbie Conklin, Kathleen Conklin, Odessa Cornell, Wilma Daniels, Mary Ann DeWitt, Philip Donahue, Larry Ferris, Mary Ferris, Harvey Fletcher, Geraldine Flynn, Maria Garvey, Brandy Golden, William Hector, Gerard Heiser, Jane Heiser, Byron Hilgner, Susan Jennings, Timothy Jones, Deb Kessler, Bill Kozerski, Ken Landes, Josh Landis, Dolores Makowski, Walter Miller, Alexis Mock, Christian Mondy, Luis Muloski, Kevin Nowalk, Mike Rayias, Kimberly Richey, Luke Richey, Bob Roccia, Ann Paolucci, Debbie Rossi, Rob Rossi, Jack Rozanski, Dorothy Sergeant, Pauline Sheehan, Kathleen Sitkowski, Delores Slatter, Jerry Stahl, Florence Trowbridge, Rosemarie Whalen.



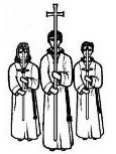
LET US PRAY FOR THOSE WHO PROUDLY SERVE IN THE MILITARY:
Floyd Beamer, Thomas Butler, Daniel Daly, Christopher Jordan, James Kane, Mark Nowalk, Nate Seymour, Julie Snyder, Aaron Taylor, Nancy Travis, and Travis Walter.

PARISH FINANCES 2/11/2024

(FY18/19 Budget)	\$	(4867.00)
Sunday Collection	\$	2,835.75
<i>Thank you for your generosity & support</i>		

Travelers & Vacationers

Please remember that our parish relies on your contributions, even when you are away. Thanks!!



Sunday, February 18th – 9:00AM
Lee John Sullivan

Sunday, February 25th – 9:00AM
Bernadetta Paolucci

Sunday, March 3rd – 9:00AM
Isaiah Torres

Sunday, March 10th – 9:00AM
Albert Paolucci

Sunday, March 17th – 9:00AM
Lee John Sullivan

Would you like to become an Altar Server? If so, please contact Pam Tometchko at 570-278-0497 or speak to Fr. Philip directly.

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-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.

PARISH EVENTS

February 19th – Presidents’ Day; Rectory Closed

February 23rd/24th – Loose Change Weekend

Diocesan Annual Appeal

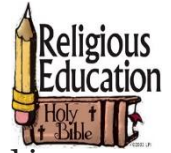


Thanks to all our parishioners who have made their gift to the 2023 Diocesan Annual Appeal. If you have not yet made a gift or pledge, please fill out a commitment pledge envelope or visit www.annualappeal.org to donate online.

The Diocesan Annual Appeal is how the Diocese of Scranton serves charitable, educational, and pastoral ministries. Through your generous support we are able to serve thousands of families and individuals in Northeastern and Central Pennsylvania through outreach, formation, evangelization, and worship. Thank you! We couldn't do it without you!

Little Black Books of Lenten prayers and reflections and Catholic Relief Services Rice Bowls are available for you to take in the back of the church.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS



Religious Education Classes are held in person in the Parish Center beginning at 10:00AM, after the 9:00AM Mass.

If you are new to the parish and would like to register your child, forms will be available at the rectory, as well as online on the Holy Name of Mary Church web site under the Religious Education portal.

Religious Education Schedule:

February 18 – Regular Class

February 25 – Regular Class

March 3 – Regular Class

March 10 – Regular Class

March 17 – Regular Class

March 24 – Regular Class

March 31 – NO CLASS; HAPPY EASTER!!

Lenten Holy Hour with Bishop Bambera

For the second consecutive year, all of the faithful in the Diocese of Scranton are invited to a Lenten Holy Hour with the Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, to commemorate the Year of Parish Revival for the National Eucharistic Revival. These gatherings will take place in each of the twelve deaneries of the Diocese of Scranton.

The Lenten Holy Hour for our deanery, the Sayre Deanery, will take place on Thursday, March 7, at 7 p.m., at Epiphany Parish, 304 South Elmer Avenue, Sayre, PA 18840.

During the Year of Parish Revival, which lasts through June 2024, every parish in the country is being invited to offer opportunities to parishioners where they can be healed, converted, formed, and unified by an encounter with Jesus in the Eucharist – and then be sent out on mission “for the life of the world.”



During Lent, our parish will participate in CRS Rice Bowl, a faith-in-action program that invites us to reflect on the challenges of global hunger – and our Gospel call to care for our global human family.

Matthew’s Gospel reminds us that we are responsible for helping all of our sisters and brothers, even those who are strangers to us. “Whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me.” – *Matthew 25:40*.

CRS invites you to place the cardboard container in your home and to put money not spent due to your fasting and other things given up for Lent. At the end of Lent the Rice Bowl is brought to Mass and placed in the collection basket. The proceeds are then sent to the Diocese and used for hunger relief within our diocese and used for development projects in poor nations. **The Rice Bowls are available in the back of the church. Please take one home!**



The rectory will be closed Monday, February 19th in observance of Presidents’ Day.

Lenten Reminders

Lent is a time for sacrifice and for spiritual renewal as we reflect upon our baptism and the call given to each of us to walk as disciples of the Lord.

As faithful followers of Jesus, we are traditionally encouraged to honor the sacred season of Lent by embracing the three pillars of Lenten observance:

1. **Almsgiving** – generously giving to those in need
2. **Fasting** – practicing self-discipline and self-denial
3. **Prayer** – reading, hearing and reflecting on the Word of God

LENTEN RETREAT FOR MEN

All men, ages 18 years and older, are invited to participate in an overnight Lenten Retreat titled "Spiritual Direction: I'm Not Lost, I'm Wondering" from 6:00 p.m. Friday, March 15 until 2:00 p.m. Saturday, March 16 at Holy Transfiguration Retreat Center in Dalton.

Participants will examine the spiritual journey of men in our world, moving from wandering to wondering about God’s will in their lives. There will be talks by Fr. Pio Mandato, Fr. Stan Fortuna, and Fr. Brian Van Fossen, Mike Donovan, opportunities for Adoration and Confession, and Holy Mass offered by Bishop Joseph Bambera. This will be a great way to renew one's heart and mind before Easter.

The cost of the retreat is only \$75, which includes meals and overnight accommodation at the retreat center.

If you have not already registered you can use this link <https://beacatholicman.com/register-for-retreat-1>

For more information visit www.beacatholicman.com or contact Joe Adcroft at jadcroft@kknepa.com or call 570-380-5070.

The retreat is sponsored by Be A Catholic Man, Inc., a nonprofit "on a mission to encourage and empower men to deepen their relationship with Christ, to be spiritual leaders in their families, their church, and their community, and to live their faith in everyday life."



LENT