

4th

SUNDAY OF LENT

"Do you believe in the Son of Man?"

- Jn 9:35b



Due to the Coronavirus , all Masses will be suspended until further notice.

SUNDAY REFLECTION

Conversion is a process. The blind man in the Gospel reading exemplifies this journey into faith. Notice that at first he did not go to Jesus. Jesus came to him. The man responded by waiting to see what would happen and then by obeying Jesus. Conversion begins when Jesus seeks us out and we make ourselves available to His touch. He then opens our eyes to the truth, but we don't immediately understand. When the man's neighbor asked about his cure, he didn't understand who Jesus was; he thought of him as just a man. Then, the pressure of listening to the Pharisees argue about who Jesus was caused him to give it more thought. He concluded that Jesus must be a prophet. As the Pharisees treated him more roughly and raised the possibility of expelling him from the synagogue if he claimed that Jesus was the Christ, he began to wonder whether it might be true. Their reasons for hating Jesus became the eye openers that cured his spiritual blindness. Finally, Jesus sought him out again, this time to minister to him in response to the mistreatment he had suffered from the Pharisees. In this act of caring, the man could see who Jesus really was. Conversion, the purification of spiritual vision, takes place in the fire of our sufferings as we recognize the concern that God has for us.

SANCTUARY VOTIVES: Peace & Health

SACRED HEART CANDLES: In Memory of Thomas Porzuczek - Bob & Sharon Flynn

BLESSED MOTHER CANDLES: For Special Intention

SUNDAY COLLECTION:	\$2,732.50
LOOSE:	\$400.00
CATHOLIC SOCIAL SERVICES	\$460.00
DUES:	\$651.00

THESE SAINTS KNOW FIRST HAND ABOUT SURVIVING PANDEMICS

But even more, they know about how a pandemic can become a way to serve God and neighbor.

Finding a saint who worked with victims of plagues and other epidemics can be a struggle, because there are too many to count. As coronavirus spreads around the globe, leaving many sick and many more frightened, we would do well to ask the intercession of those who fought plagues and epidemics and won halos in the process.

St. Godeberta of Noyon (c700) cared for the sick in a less direct way that helped many others. An abbess with great influence over the people who live near her abbey, Godeberta encouraged them to pray for the end of a plague. After they spent three days fasting in sackcloth and ashes the plague ended quite suddenly.

St. Roch (192501327) embarked on a pilgrimage to Rome when he was 20, begging all the way. When he arrived in Italy, he discovered a country ravaged by the plague. Roch set about caring for the sick strangers he came upon (often curing them miraculously) until he himself contracted the disease. Knowing nobody, dragged himself to the forest to die, but a local dog brought him food and licked his wounds until Roch recovered. We will have more saints to tell you about later.

YEAR OF ST. JOSEPH

This year marks the 150th Anniversary of Pope Pius IX's decree naming Saint Joseph, husband of the Blessed Virgin Mary and foster-father of Jesus, as the Patron of the Universal Church. In commemoration of this anniversary and recognizing the fitting time for the Church to invoke the intercession of this guardian, Bishop Bambera states, "Just as Saint Joseph watched over and protected the Lord Jesus while He was on earth, we need Saint Joseph to watch over and provide for the Church today. His intercession on behalf of the Universal Church is vital as the world faces so much upheaval and pain and particularly as it confronts the uncertainty and pain of the coronavirus epidemic." Bishop Bambera invites all of the faithful to renew their devotion to Saint Joseph during this commemoration year, and to seek his powerful intercession to safely guard the Church from all evils, just as he protected the Holy Family from harm. Please look for future opportunities and resources to celebrate this year in your parish.

PARISH FISH FRY - Our parish will have a Fish Fry take-out Dinner on April 3rd. Fish, Mac & Cheese & Cole Slaw for \$9.00. Orders this weekend. Payment due at time of order.

CHRISTIAN WOMEN- Our women's society have scheduled a meeting on Wednesday, April 1st at 6:30 pm in the rectory. We encourage the women of our parish community to participate. All are welcome. For any information, call Mary Gluchowski at 570-825-3925.

"AN AWARENESS PROGRAM

HARMFUL EVENTS IN PLACES OF WORSHIP"

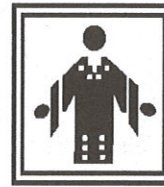
On Tuesday, March 24 at 6:00 pm at St. Jude's Church, 420 S. Mountain Blvd., Mountain Top, our parish representatives are reminded to attend a special informative meeting concerning a program addressing the serious issue of safety in our Churches. We all know there have been tragic and difficult situations around the world and in our own country. These threats have caused harm and casualties. Paul J. Mendolik, who has an extensive background in the area of Security will make a presentation on this topic. This matter is to be taken seriously and our parish will address this for the welfare and safety of our parish.

NITE AT THE RACES - Plans were underway for our Annual Nite at the Races. It was scheduled for Saturday, April 18. At this time the Races have been postponed until further notice..

PARISH LENTEN PROJECT Your donations have a wonderful Lenten spirit. Your donations have been generous. Next weekend **CONDIMENTS (E.G. MUSTARD & KETCHUP).** Charity to the less fortunate touches the heart of God.

ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA NOVENA - Every Tuesday until the Feast of St. Anthony in June at 5:30 pm, our parish is honored to conduct this Novena. The theme is very relevant as we are enlightened by the life and spirituality of the Patron Saint of Alcohol and Addiction Venerable Matt Talbot. All are welcome!

EASTER PLAY - "Witness Portraits of the Passion: Passion Play 2020", on Friday, April 3, 2020 at St. John the Baptist Church, 126 Nesbit Street, Larksville. It will be at 7:30 pm. Details: At the Vatican Library an aspiring actress traces her ancestry to a witness at Jesus' Passion. It's open to the public and fellowship in the Church Hall follows afterwards. Any questions: 570-779-9620.



FROM THE PASTOR

This Sunday is **LAETARE SUNDAY**, the Sunday just after the midpoint of Lent, when the Church would have us take a break from our penances and be encouraged by the fact that **EASTER** is approaching, the most wonderful of all days, when we celebrate the Lord's Resurrection. Today, instead of the usual somber purple of Lent, we are allowed to wear more colorful vestments, even rose colored ones. Flowers can be placed on the Altar and the music is more upbeat, so that our senses might be messengers of joy and celebration. Traditionally on Laetare Sunday, the Pope blesses a Golden Rose at the Basilica of the Holy Cross of Jerusalem in Rome. The Rose was sent to a Catholic prince or princess or to an important Church or City. The blessing used by the Pope reads in part, "We beseech Thy Divine Majesty to bless and sanctify this rose, so lovely in beauty and fragrance. We are to bear it, this day in our hands, as a symbol of spiritual joy, that thus the people that are devoted to thy service, being set free from the captivity of Babylon by the grace of thine only begotten Son; who is the glory and joy of Israel, may show forth, with a sincere heart, the joys of that Jerusalem which is above, and is our Mother." As we speak of the Golden Rose and the Heavenly Jerusalem, we must also speak of Mary, who prefigures in her person the spotless beauty and sanctity of the Holy City. In the litany in honor of the Blessed Mother, she is referred to as the "**Mystical Rose**". Her beauty is beyond all comprehension. After our lives are spent among the passing beauties of this world we hope to be admitted, if we persevere in God's grace, to the incredible incomprehensible beauty of heaven, to see and know God as He is for all eternity. This is true and perfect happiness, the beauty, for which we were created. In conclusion, I would like to use the words of the Introit for this Sunday's Mass from which the title Laetare derives: **Rejoice (Laetare)** with Joy, you that have been in sorrow that you may exult. God bless all of you as you journey to Easter Sunday, I say to all of you, "**REJOICE**."

DIOCESAN ANNUAL APPEAL - Help the Diocese and our Parish with a generous pledge. We're still quite short of the goal. Every dollar counts, no matter how small. Again, our thanks to all those who made a pledge. It means a lot. God bless.

LOTTERY

Wed. March	769	Ruth Wren
Thurs. March	523	
Fri. March 6	538	
Sat.. March 7	713	