

At the heart of Jesus' message and Francis' mission is love. Certainly, this means our experience of God's love and our love for God. But, on a more practical level, this means the love that we show to one another. The first reading this Sunday brings this point home, as we hear these words from the Prophet Isaiah: *Share your bread with the hungry, shelter the oppressed and the homeless; clothe the naked when you see them, and do not turn your back on your own. Then your light shall break forth like the dawn... If you remove from your midst oppression, false accusation, and malicious speech, if you bestow your bread on the hungry and satisfy the afflicted; then light shall rise for you in the darkness, and the gloom shall become for you like midday.* This is what love looks like and when we reflect on all of the acts of mercy Isaiah describes, we can see how these good works — expressions of our love — can help drive away the ugliness, fear, and, yes, darkness that brings grief, despair, and death into the world. Br. Silas Henderson, S.D.S.

---

#### **DIOCESAN ANNUAL APPEAL UPDATE**

As of February 1, 2003  
OLA raised: \$7,919.00  
OLA goal: \$16,000.00

As of February 1, 2023  
SML raised: \$7990,00  
SML goal: \$12,000.00

As of February 1, 2023  
St Pat's raised: \$6970,00  
St Pat's goal: \$9000.00

#### **FIVE YEAR PARISH LIFE TREND**

At the bishop's request, we will be publishing from next weekend on the statistics of our three parishes for the last past five years. In the order it was sent to us, we will start with SML, then OLA and St Pat. Among many other items, information about the numbers of Mass Attendance, baptisms, first holy communions, confirmations, funerals, deaths, etc.....

#### **PASTORAL COUNCIL NEWS**

Now that the holidays are over, the Parish Pastoral Council is ready to get back to work. Our next meeting is tentatively scheduled for February 7 at 6:30pm in the OLA hall.

#### **DEANERY LENTEN HOLY HOUR**

For the celebration of the Year of the Eucharist, all deaneries in the diocese of Scranton will organize an evening of prayers open to all Parishioners. The evening comprises The Exposition of The Blessed Sacrament, Vespers and homily given by the bishop on the Eucharistic.

Our deanery's date is March 20, 2023, 7 pm at St Gregory Church in Clarks Green.

#### **WORLD DAY OF THE SICK**

Pope John Paul II designated February 11 as World Day of the Sick, "a special time of prayer and sharing, of offering one's suffering for the good of the Church, and of reminding us to see in our sick brother and sister the face of Christ who, by suffering, dying, and rising achieved the salvation of humankind" ( Letter Instituting the World Day of the Sick, May 13 1992,3 ).

Pope John Paul II chose this date because of the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, place of healing of the body and soul.

So in our 3 Parishes, Fr. Arbo will administer the Sacrament of Anointing to everyone at the end of all weekend Masses on February 11th & 12<sup>th</sup>.

LITURGICAL MINISTERS / LECTORS SCHEDULE

**February 11/12**

**Eucharistic Ministers**

4 pm (OLA) Ned Clarke  
5:30pm (SML) Dan Williams Jr.  
8:00 am (OLA) Diane Fitzpatrick  
9:30am (SML) Sean Pieretti  
11 am (SP) Lucy Ziman

**Musicians**

4 pm (OLA) Maria Fay  
5:30 pm (SML) Danny Williams  
8:00 am (OLA) Steve Guza  
9:30am (SML) Danny Williams  
11 am (SP) Maria Fay

**Lectors**

4 pm (OLA) Kathy Tumavitch  
5:30 pm (SML) Bob Andrews  
8:00 am (OLA) Liz Dempsey  
9:30AM(SML) Ashley Kenia  
11 am (SP) Holly Harvatine

**UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS**

Feb 7 – Legion of Mary at OLA, 9am  
Feb 7 – Parish Pastoral Council mtg. at OLA, 6:30pm  
Feb 8 – Choir Practice at SML, 6:30 pm

**ST PAT/OLA CCD NEWS**

We would like to thank all the parents that came out to the First Communion Class meeting.

**CCD NEWS**

There will be a retreat for the children receiving their First Communion from all 3 churches on Saturday February 25 at St Patrick’s Hall. Registration starts at 9:30 AM.

**SUPERBOWL HOAGIE SALE**

The Knights of Columbus are sponsoring their annual Super Bowl Hoagie sale. These mouth-watering Italian Hoagies are \$8 each, or 4 for \$30. This weekend is your last chance to order hoagies. Hoagies will be delivered after the last Sunday Mass at OLA, St. Pat's, and St. Mary of the Lake on February 12th. For more information or to place an order, call Tony Dalasio (570) 357-8045) or Matt Schofield (210) 636-4017.

**SML EASTER CANDY SALE**

SML parishioners are starting to make their hand made Easter Candy to be sold during Lent and Easter seasons. They would appreciate anyone who would be able to help on Thursdays at 8:30am and Sundays at noon. Call Patti at (570) 280-6168

MASS INTENTIONS

**Monday (Feb 6) St Paul Miki & Companions, Martyrs**

8:00 am (SP) Santiago & Angela Perez  
*By The Perez Family*

**Tuesday (Feb 7) Weekday**

8:00 am (OLA) Joseph Motyka  
*By Janet Motyka*

**Wednesday (Feb 8) St Jerome Emilani, St Josephine**

**Bakhita, Virgin**

8:00 am (SP) Health & Blessings for Fr. Arbo  
*By Mary Ann Mulfino*

**Thursday (Feb 9) Weekday**

8:00 am (SML) Colleen Zdaniewicz  
*By Theresa Zdaniewicz*

**Saturday (Feb 11) Vigil of the Sixth Sunday in**

**Ordinary Time**

4:00 pm (OLA) Ann Beckish  
*By Jim & Marlene Cours*

5:30 pm (SML) Dale Franko  
*By Rick & Nancy Schiavone*

**Sunday (Feb 12)**

8:00 am (OLA) Health & Blessings for the St Pio Chapel adorers

*By Andrea Parlanti*

9:30 am (SML) Bill Sickles

*By The Shaw Family*

11:00 am (SP) Helen & Mike Skumanick

*By Lorraine James*

**WEEKLY OFFERING (COLLECTION)**

SP Weekly \$ 1,261.00 Loose \$ 131.10  
OLA Weekly \$ 1,478.00 Loose \$ 29.00  
SML Weekly \$ 1,630.00 Loose \$ 266.00

*May the Lord reward your generosity.*

**NEW WEBSITE FOR ALL OUR CHURCHES**

Here is our new website address: [nepacatholic.com](http://nepacatholic.com). The website beautifully links our churches and has inspirational catholic links.

**ASH WEDNESDAY MASS SCHEDULE**

**FEBRUARY 22, 2023**

**St. Patrick Church**

8am Mass with Distribution of Ashes

**Our Lady of the Abingtons Church**

12:10pm Mass with Distribution of Ashes

**St Mary of the Lake Church**

6pm Mass with Distribution of Ashes

**EUCCHARISTIC MINISTER TRAINING**

This year the office of parish life is organizing 3 sessions of training for new Eucharistic Ministers. Please consider this ministry. The dates of the training sessions will be coming in future bulletins.