

✠ ♦The First Sunday of Lent ♦February 22, 2026♦ ✠

THE FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

Lent is a Holy Season, a joyous season, a happy season, because it helps us to look inside ourselves. Lent helps us to turn toward our heart, the center of our being. At the very beginning of Lent, the Church invites us to think about what is essential: Temptations. Every single human being goes through this on a daily basis, until the time of our death. Adam and Eve failed. Everyone is tempted every day. Jesus went through them. But He won.

Jesus wins where everyone fails. It's an unending battle. What are these temptations? There are 3:

First: we are not made for the foods that are perishables. Second: we are not made to test God; we are not made to try Him. We are made to live in communion with God. Third: we are not made to dominate others, that means to rule with tyranny over others. We were made in the image of God, in the image of The Holy Trinity.

To be in the image of God is creation's purpose, is creation's programs. And it's in The Eucharist that creation is made visible: God is given or God gives Himself to us in The Eucharist as food; God dwells with us in The Eucharist; God kneels down in The Eucharist to wash our feet, making each of us a servant to do the same.

Temptations are always an opportunity to express our faithfulness or unfaithfulness.

HAPPY LENT TO OUR PARISHIONERS.

LENTEN THEME

Our Lenten motto this year comes from the Psalm 31, which is: **"Lord, let me never be put to shame"**.

We are called to say this prayer many times a day during Lent. Let's say it not only for ourselves, but for all Parishioners.

LENTEN SERIES

Every Friday during Lent, after The Stations of the Cross (6 pm), we will gather in the church hall (6:30 pm), for Soup and.....Surprise!

Friday February 27: SML Soup and.....Surprise!

Friday March 6: OLA Soup and.....Surprise!

Friday March 13: SP Soup and.....Surprise!

Friday March 20: SML Soup and.....Surprise!

Friday March 27: OLA Soup and.....Surprise!

PS. We will pay close attention to the weather which could affect some Fridays.

SOUPS FOR FRIDAY FEBRUARY 27 AT SML

SML parishioners, we need 5 soups for Soup & Surprise. If you can bring hot soup in a crock pot this Friday, please call the office at OLA (570-563-6122) to let us know.

PRAY 40 HALLOW CHALLENGE

As a community partnering with Hallow, our parish page is a place to join prayer challenges, share prayer intentions and connect more deeply with our parish family. Join us as we walk together into Lent, alongside our whole community. The Lent Pray40 is available now on our Hallow church page (info is available on NEPA Catholic.com). Prayer is not meant to be done alone...Share Pray40 with your family and friends so they can join millions in returning to God our Father this Lent, guided by Jonathan Roumie, Mark Wahlberg, Chris Pratt, Sister Miriam, Fr. Mike Schmitz, Mother Olga and Jeff Cavins!

LENT AND LENTEN REGULATIONS

ASH WEDNESDAY & GOOD FRIDAY: These are days of Fast and Abstinence from meat (or one full meal between the age of 18 and 59 inclusive).

DAYS OF ABSTINENCE: All Fridays of Lent (from age 14).

WEEKDAYS OF LENT: There is no obligation to fast. However, voluntary works or acts of charity and self-denial are highly recommended.

ST PATRICKS PHONE NEWS

The phone service and internet have been disconnected at St. Patrick's. Call 570-563-1622 to reach the office.

ST. PAT'S CLOTHES CLOSET CHALLENGE
40 Days...40 Items. Each day during Lent consider removing one item from your house that is no longer needed and place in a bag to be donated to the Clothes Closet at St. Pat's at the end of Lent.

SML EASTER CANDY SALE

SML parishioners are busy making handmade Easter Candy to be sold during Lent and Easter seasons at SML. The candy will be sold at OLA & SP on the weekend of March 7 & 8. There are order forms available at all our churches. The deadline for the order form is March 15. Any questions call Dorothy at 570-378-2530 or Loretta at 570-378-2256.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS POTLUCK

The Knights of Columbus will hold a potluck dinner at OLA on 23 February. The dinner will be preceded by a Mass in the church at 6pm. Ms. Jessica Freyne, Director of the Providence Pregnancy Center (Scranton), will speak to the group after dinner. All are welcome to join us for Mass and dinner. Contact Matt Schofield at schofieldmjs@outlook.com.

LITURGICAL MINISTERS / LECTORS SCHEDULE

February 28 & March 1

Eucharistic Ministers

4 pm (OLA) Nikki Weisenfluh
9:00am (SML) Danny Williams Jr.
11 am (SP) Sue Stutzman

Musicians

4 pm (OLA) Maria Fay
9:00am (SML) Danny Williams
11 am (SP) Maria Fay

Lectors

4 pm (OLA) Kathy Tumavitch
9:00am (SML) Seb Naro
11 am (SP) Third Grade Class

Altar Servers

4 pm (OLA) – Jace Biglin
11am (SP) – Kali Harvatine
Shadow – Emma Evans

UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS

Mar 5 – Bingo at SP, Doors open at 5pm, Bingo, 6pm
Mar 12 - Prayer Shawl Ministry at SML, 5:30 pm
Mar 15 - St. Patrick Day celebration at SP, 12pm

SP/OLA FAMILY FAITH FORMATION

Julie Harvatine - jwharv03@gmail.com.

Thank you to SML for hosting all of the youth of our Family Faith Formation for mass, breakfast and a lesson on love and St. Valentine.

2/27/2026 - Stations of the cross 7th and 2nd grades to participate

3/1/2026 - Class - 3rd grade mass SP 11 AM

3/6/2026 - Stations of the Cross-3rd grade families to participate

3/8/2026 - Class

3/13/2026 - Stations of the Cross-4th grade families to participate

SML FAMILY FAITH FORMATION

Kerry Pieretti - redlightgreen343@gmail.com

March 1 Class

March 8 Off Spring break

ST. PATRICK DAY HAM & CABBAGE CELEBRATION AT ST PAT'S HALL

On Sunday March 15th we will once again celebrate St. Patrick after the 11am Mass. There are sign-up sheets at all churches. Sign up as early as possible. The last day to sign up is March 8. Volunteers to help set up and prep the day before starting around 10am and volunteers for serving and cleanup the day of the dinner would be appreciated. A special thank you to the Stutzman family who once again volunteered to cook for us.

MASS INTENTIONS

Tuesday (February 24) Lenten Weekday

8:00am (OLA) Marie Herman
By Gloria Warner

Wednesday (February 25) Lenten Weekday

9:00am (SP) JoAnn Petranichak
By Robert & Andrea Walsh

Thursday (February 26) Lenten Weekday

8:00 am (SML) Brandon Gardner
By Rick & Mary Lou Franko

Saturday (February 28) The Vigil of The Second Sunday Of Lent

4:00 pm (OLA) Angela Kingsley
By Nick & Kathy Tumavitch

Sunday (March 1) The Second Sunday Of Lent

9:00 am (SML) Sue Migliori
By Altar & Rosary Society
11:00 am (SP) Pauline Zajac
By Pat Wall

Sanctuary Candle at OLA

Burning this week for Albert Davis
By Kyle, Bob & Andrea Walsh

Sanctuary Candle at SP

Burning this week for Healing for Karla & Emy
By Pat Moots

WEEKLY OFFERINGS (COLLECTIONS)

SP Weekly \$ 1,508.00 Loose \$47 .00

OLA Weekly \$ 1,882.00 Loose \$ 6.00

SML Weekly \$ 1,470.00 Loose \$ 217.00

May the Lord reward your generosity

IMPORTANT MESSAGE FOR ALL LECTORS

On Palm Sunday, Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday, no lector will read in his or her church. So, if you are a lector and want to read in a different church than yours, please call the office.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS THANK YOU

The Knights of Columbus express their thanks to all those who supported our annual Super Bowl hoagie sales. The proceeds will provide for recognition gifts for our first communion children and the Knights' ongoing support to our local Catholic charities. Thank you!

OUR SAINTS AND THE EUCHARIST

Ven. Concepcion Cabrera de Armada: Jesus told her that He wants souls who have fervor to plead day and night for Priests before The Blessed Sacrament.