

**THE THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT**

Today's gospel gives us an opportunity to meditate upon one of God's mystery. One of God's great mystery, which is God's patience and God's power to forgive. How far does God go with His patience? When does God punish? We know as the Psalm 103 says that "The Lord is kind and merciful, slow to anger, and rich in kindness". For those who are familiar with the Bible, we have in the Book of Genesis (18, 22 f...), Abraham trading with God about Sodom and Gomorrah. When God wanted to punish Nineveh, we have in the Book of Jonah (4, 2f) the prophet saying "...You are gracious and compassionate God, slow to anger abounding in love, who relents from sending calamity..." It's the same God who in Matthew 18, 26-27 forgave the servant who prostrated before Him because he owes God a huge amount of money. But do all these examples show that God doesn't punish? Of course not. The key word with God is CONVERSION. Although the Church hopes against hope that God is patient, and He is, we have to know that God's patience could become impatience. Let's all look at all the catastrophes happening around us and in the world. Those who died are neither guilty nor bad or good. It could be us, you or me. God's goodness is giving us one more day for our conversion. That's why God keeps saying "Repent".

**LENTEN THEME & DAILY PRAYER  
FOR THIS YEAR**

**"Lord, If You Remember Our Sins, Who Will Be Saved".** (from Ps 103).

This is our communal daily prayer, and also the end of every homily. It's a prayer of forgiveness not based on our merit, but solely on God's grace and His plan for our salvation.

**LENTEN HOLY HOUR**

The bishop is to celebrate a Holy Hour in all deaneries in the Diocese. In our deanery, the Clarks Summit Deanery, The Holy Hour will be this Wednesday March 26 at 7 pm, at Our Lady of the Snows in Clarks Summit.

**LENTEN SERIES**

**"Falling in love with the book of Revelation"**

Every Friday of Lent, after the Stations Of The Cross (6 pm), we will gather in the church's hall (6:30 pm), for Soup And Scriptures. This year, the famous book of Revelation will lead us to Easter on our journey to repent.

Friday March 28: OLA

Friday April 4: St Patrick

Friday April 11: SML

**SOUPS FOR FRIDAY MARCH 28 AT OLA**

OLA parishioners, we need 5 soups for Soup & Scripture. 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.

**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS SPAGHETTI DINNER**

On Saturday March 29 after the 4pm Mass at OLA, the Knights of Columbus will have a free will offering spaghetti dinner for all parishioners of our 3 churches. Come enjoy their good cooking.

**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.

**SPIRITUAL ADVICE FOR LENT**

Some people cannot fast (food intake) So, are you looking for a different way of fasting? Please consider this: Fasting from hurtful words: Entertain instead words of blessings.

Fasting from gossip and unnecessary criticism: Cultivate kindness in our soul.

Fasting from bitterness: Learn to know who or what hurts you.

Fasting from selfishness: Sacrifice your OWN need once in a while.

Fasting from dissatisfaction: Stop comparing yourself to others (you are unique).

Fasting from anxiety and worry: Trust that God knows the number of your hairs.

Please this Lent, ask God to help you know your heart.

**SML EASTER CANDY SALE**

SML parishioners are busy making handmade Easter Candy to be sold during Lent and Easter seasons. There are order forms available at all our churches. Any questions call Dorothy at 570-378-2530 or Loretta at 570-378-2256.

**HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE**

**Holy Thursday**

At St. Patrick Church

6pm

**Good Friday**

At St. Mary of the Lake Church

1pm

**Holy Saturday**

At Our Lady of the Abingtons Church

8pm

## LITURGICAL MINISTERS / LECTORS SCHEDULE

**March 29 & 30**

### Eucharistic Ministers

4 pm (OLA) Len Peters  
9:00am (SML) Brandon Pieretti  
11 am (SP) Jill D'Antoni

### Musicians

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

### Lectors

4 pm (OLA) Mary Jo Danoski  
9:00am (SML) Seb Naro  
11 am (SP) Maria Perez

### Altar Servers

11am (SP) Corinne Flynn  
Shadow – Emma Evans

## UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS

March 26 – Deanery Holy Hour at OLS in CS, 7pm  
March 27 – Prayer Shawl Ministry at SML, 5:30pm  
March 28 – Stations, Soup & Scripture at OLA, 6pm  
March 29 – KOC Spaghetti Dinner at OLA, 5pm

### **SP/OLA FAMILY FAITH FORMATION NEWS**

We are making an effort to get more kids to experience the story that the stations of the cross unfolds for us. We would like SP/OLA and their families to make every effort to attend and potentially participate in at least 1 of the stations of the cross events. It is a wonderful family faith formation Lenten activity everyone in your family can enjoy! **Palm Sunday:** SP/OLA students and families please plan to attend mass. We will have the kids process with palms at the beginning of mass then return to sit with their families. **Donations Needed:** SP/OLA Family Faith Formation is seeking donations to help fill our Easter Eggs for our annual Easter Egg hunt. Treats can be left in any of our churches or the parish office. Thank you!

Mar 30 – Class

April 3 – First Communion Retreat at SP, 4:30pm

April 6 - Class

### **SML FAMILY FAITH FORMATION NEWS**

Please prayerfully consider giving something up or adding something as a family. Stations of the Cross is a great opportunity!

Mar 30 – Class & guests Fr. Pio & Capuchin Sisters

April 3 – First Communion Retreat at SP, 4:30pm

April 6 - Class

### **SML RAFFLE**

#### **FOR THE CAPUCHIN SISTERS FOOD FUND**

Tickets will be on sale after Mass at St. Mary's on March 23, 30, and April 6. Chances are \$1 each or 6 for \$5. The drawing will take place after Mass on April 6. Any questions call Pat at 570-575-6266.

## MASS INTENTIONS

### **Tuesday (March 25) The Annunciation of the Lord**

8:00 am (OLA) Msgr. James McGarry

*By Andrea Parlanti*

### **Wednesday (March 26) Lenten Weekday**

8:00 am (SP) Gene Hoch

*By Janet Motyka*

### **Thursday (March 27) Lenten Weekday**

8:00 am (SML) John Irish

*By Carl, Marie & Katie Packer*

### **Saturday (March 29) The Vigil of The Fourth**

#### **Sunday of Lent**

4:00 pm (OLA) Richard Ruckowski

*By Cathy & Duane Valence*

### **Sunday (March 30) The Fourth Sunday of Lent**

9:00 am (SML) Gert Billings

*By Rick & Mary Lou Franko*

11:00 am (SP) Santiago & Angela Perez

*By The Perez Family*

### **WEEKLY OFFERINGS (COLLECTIONS)**

**SP Weekly    OLA Weekly    SML Weekly**

**Unavailable this week**

*May the Lord reward your generosity.*

### **VOCATION SESSION AT SML**

We would like to welcome Father Pio and the Capuchin sisters to SML on March 30 after the 9am Mass. They are coming to talk about their vocations and being called to religious life. Teens and young adults from all three churches are welcome and encouraged to attend.

### **LENTEN SLEEPING BAG PROJECT THANKS**

On Saturday, March 8, the Lackawanna Trail Interact Club made 17 Sleeping bags and donated supplies for our area homeless. Members of the Sleeping Bag project and our parishioners helped, and we delivered the donations to the Community Intervention Center in Scranton. Thank you to everyone who helped!

### **A SPECIAL THANK YOU**

We thank the 90 plus Parishioners of our 3 Parishes who came together last Sunday to celebrate St Patrick Day at St. Patrick Church in Nicholson. But a very special thank you to the Stutzman family who this year again, volunteered to prepare the whole event, from the hall readiness to the cooking, and serving of the meal.

### **SAINTS LIFE WITH THE EUCHARIST**

Saint Basil witnessed Angels in the form of humans adoring our Lord at Mass. (All of Saint Basil's family members are Saints: father, mother, and siblings: St Basil the Elder, St Macrina the Elder, St Macrina, St Emmelia, St Gregory of Nyssa, St Sebaste, and St Theusebial).