

THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

This Sunday, the last of the Scrutinies, is the Sunday during which we read the gospel of the resurrection of Lazarus. His friend, the “one that he loves”, is sick. For us Christians, this gospel announces what will happen to us all, the passage from death to life; this passage is A MUST for all believers. In this Gospel, there is a total and complete misunderstanding of Jesus: Martha, Mary (sisters of Lazarus), and their friends wanted Jesus to prevent Lazarus from dying. But Jesus wanted Lazarus dead, so that He could bring him back from death to life, thus inviting people to believe in Him. Even today, we pray to Jesus to protect our children, our parents, our friends from death, but we know rather well the way to life, passes through death. Our God is a God who opens gravesites. Our God is a God who shouts, “come out”. For us who believe in God, death is a passage. For Christ, a cemetery is a hospital for birth. Unfortunately for us, St John’s gospel doesn’t describe neither the greeting between Lazarus after his resurrection and his sisters Martha and Mary nor does it mention the feast that they organized.

IF YOU CANNOT FAST OR ARE STRUGGLING WITH FASTING

- * Teach something good to someone.
- * Give good advice to someone.
- *Forgive someone who hurt you.
- *Bring comfort to someone who is sad.
- *Ask for forgiveness.
- *Ask for patience in your daily life.
- * Listen to someone who needs your ear.
- *Make a time of silence for yourself.
- * Spend a whole day without watching TV.
- * Pray to God for the Living and the Dead.

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

SOUPS FOR FRIDAY MARCH 27 AT OLA

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.

KOC EASTER FLOWER SALE

The Knights thank everyone who ordered flowers. The flowers will be delivered on Palm Sunday at each church.

SML, SP & OLA EASTER DECORATION

Decoration of the altar at SML will take place on Good Friday at 2pm after Veneration. Decoration of the altar at OLA will take place on Good Friday at about 3:30/4pm after finishing at SML. Decoration of the altar at SP will take place on Holy Saturday at 10:30am. We welcome all who wish to help.

DEANERY LENTEN PENANCE SERVICES ARE HAPPENING THIS WEEK

At Our Lady of the Abingtons this Tuesday March 24
At St. John Vianney this Thursday March 26
The services will begin at 7pm

These are the only Lenten Deanery Penance services.

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 (age 14).

WEEKDAYS OF LENT: There is no obligation to fast.

SML EASTER CANDY SALE

Palm Sunday will be the last day that SML handmade Easter Candy will be sold at SML. Any questions call Dorothy at 570-378-2530 or Loretta at 570-378-2256.

PALM SUNDAY MASS SCHEDULE

Our Lady of the Abingtons Church

4pm Vigil

St. Mary of the Lake Church

9:00am

St. Patrick Church

11am

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

Holy Thursday

At Our Lady of the Abingtons Church

6pm

Good Friday

At St. Mary of the Lake Church

1pm

Holy Saturday

At St. Patrick’s Church

8pm

EASTER SUNDAY MASS SCHEDULE

Our Lady of the Abingtons Church

8am

St. Mary of the Lake Church

9:30am

St. Patrick Church

11am

LITURGICAL MINISTERS / LECTORS SCHEDULE

March 28 & 29

Eucharistic Ministers

4 pm (OLA) Barbara Williamson, Danny Williams Jr

9:00am (SML) Brandon Pieretti

11 am (SP) Sue Stutzman, Michele Zajac

Musicians

4 pm (OLA) Maria Fay

9:00am (SML) Danny Williams

11 am (SP) Maria Fay

Lectors

4 pm (OLA) Seb Naro, Mary Ann Mulfino

9:00am (SML) Becky Mozeleski, Kathy Tumavitch

11 am (SP) Liz Dempsey, Mary Jo Danoski

Altar Servers

4 pm (OLA) – Jace Biglin

11am (SP) – Lucy Ziman

Shadow – Nolan Matulevich

UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS

Mar 24 – Deanery Penance Service – OLA 7pm

Mar 26 – Deanery Penance – St. John Vianney 7pm

Mar 26 – Bingo at SP, Doors open at 5pm, Bingo 6pm

Mar 26 - Prayer Shawl Ministry at SML, 5:30 pm

SP/OLA FAMILY FAITH FORMATION

Easter Egg Hunt - we are looking for candy donations for SP/OLA annual Easter Egg Hunt on Palm Sunday 3/28. Any donations are greatly appreciated!

Julie Harvatine - jwharv03@gmail.com.

3/27/2026 - Stations of the cross-6th grade families

3/29/2026 - Class - Palm Sunday - students to process with palms while singing

4/5/2026 - No Class - Happy Easter

4/12/2026 - Class

4/19/2026 - Class -4th grade mass participation 11am

SML FAMILY FAITH FORMATION

Kerry Pieretti - redlightgreen343@gmail.com

March 29 Class

April 5 Happy Easter off

AN URGENT REQUEST FROM THE BISHOP

This past February (and also at the beginning of this month), we received a mail from the bishop addressed to ALL Parishes in the diocese about each Parish's finances. After a thorough review of how things are, the bishop is asking each Parish to make a special campaign that will benefit each Parish (not the Diocese, not any other Parish). For this reason, our Finance Council has met twice to think and act on this request. Very soon, our Finance Council will make some recommendations. (Once again, it's to benefit our Parish).

MASS INTENTIONS

Tuesday (March 24) St. Oscar Romero Bishop & Martyr

8:00am (OLA) Health & Happiness for the OLA Prayer Group

By Alice Aschenbrenner

Wednesday (March 25) The Annunciation of the Lord

8:00am (SP) Living & Deceased Members of the Kondravy & Dempsey Families

By Liz Dempsey

Thursday (March 26) Lenten Weekday

8:00 am (SML) Bill Waters

By Bill Waters Estate

Saturday (March 28) The Vigil of Palm Sunday Of The Passion of the LORD

4:00 pm (OLA) Herbert Oxford

By Joanne & Jeff Whitehair & Family

Sunday (March 29) Palm Sunday Of The Passion Of The LORD

9:00 am (SML) Lori Pierce

By Timothy Pierce

11:00 am (SP) Mark Scala

By Anonymous

Sanctuary Candle at OLA

Burning this week for John Hoch

By Janet Motyka

WEEKLY OFFERINGS (COLLECTIONS)

SP Weekly \$ 2,641.00 Loose \$ 82.00

OLA Weekly \$ 2,089.00 Loose \$ 110.00

SML Weekly \$ 1,110.00 Loose \$ 58.00

May the Lord reward your generosity

ST. PAT BINGO NEWS

A heartfelt thank you to all the Bingo volunteers including the floor volunteers, kitchen volunteers and the those who donate homemade chef's specials and desserts. You make our bingo especially successful. Follow our NEPA Catholic Facebook page to see our weekly news and Chef Specials. Invite your friends to play bingo or just share dinner, eat in or take out. SPECIAL NOTE: With Easter nearing this Thursday March 26 we will have Ham bingo. Call Rita at 570-575-9874 if you would like to donate or volunteer

CONGRATULATIONS

We congratulate Thomas & Jordyn Jasinski on the baptism of their daughter Sylvia at Our Lady of the Abingtons on Saturday March 14. Please pray for Sylvia and her family.

OUR SAINTS AND THE EUCHARIST

Servant of God, Teresa Neumann: She received Holy Communion from Jesus Himself.