

✠ ♦Laetare Sunday of Lent ♦March 15, 2026♦ ✠

**LAETARE SUNDAY**

The Fourth Sunday of Lent in the Catholic Church is traditionally known as Laetare Sunday (means rejoice). This Sunday sets the tone of joyful anticipation of the Easter mystery, as does the permitted use of rose-color vestments. Today's gospel is the gospel of the man born blind, who declares solemnly: "One thing I do know is that I was blind and now I see". The healing of the man born blind is good news for Christians of today. What a miracle! This man met Jesus randomly. For him, it is a lottery, beyond a jackpot. He says he can see now, he says he believes. He is cured. He says it's Jesus who did it. Can a sinner do such thing? The true miracle for every man and every woman is to meet Jesus, to encounter Jesus, one way or another. Therefore, after meeting Him, be aware of what is important in life. Let's say this, loud and clear: when we meet Jesus, we are not meeting the "man who does miracles", a man who will bring us a magic solution to our problems. No. Meeting Jesus is to encounter God who gives a meaning to our lives, and who gives us an orientation to our acts. From this orientation, true miracles will come, like peace of mind, etc....

**THE SCRUTINIES**

This Sunday is the second of the Scrutinies. The gospel of the Man born blind is read. The Catechumens, called Elect, receive the Our Father. The goal is to uncover and to heal all that is sinful in the hearts of the Elect. But also, the scrutinies are for all Parishioners, as a reminder to examine our own lives, to turn away from sin and to renew our commitment to Christ.

**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 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 MARCH 20 AT 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.

**KRISPY KRÈME DONUT SALE**

SP/OLA Faith Formation students are selling Krispy Kreme donuts for \$12 per dozen to benefit St Patrick's Church. Place your order at jwharv03@gmail.com. by March 22 for pick up at St. Patrick's on April 19.

**DEANERY PENANCE SERVICES FOR LENT**

At Our Lady of the Abingtons on Tuesday March 24  
At St. John Vianney on 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. However, voluntary works or acts of charity and self-denial are highly recommended.

**SML EASTER CANDY SALE**

SML parishioners are busy making handmade Easter Candy to be sold during Lent and Easter seasons 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

**KOC EASTER FLOWER SALE**

The Knights will be at all churches today and next week to accept orders for Easter flowers. The flowers will be delivered on Palm Sunday at each church.

## LITURGICAL MINISTERS / LECTORS SCHEDULE

**March 21 & 22**

### **Eucharistic Ministers**

4 pm (OLA) Andrea Walsh

9:00am (SML) Len Nash

11 am (SP) Jill D'Antoni

### **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) Mary Lou Franko

11 am (SP) Mary Ann Mulfino

### **Altar Servers**

4 pm (OLA) – Kevin Jones, Margaret Jones

11am (SP) – Corinne Flynn

Shadow – Conor McHugh

### **UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS**

Mar 19 – Bingo at SP, Doors open at 5pm, Bingo 6pm

Mar 19 - Prayer Shawl Ministry at SML, 5:30 pm

Mar 19 – Deanery Holy Hour - St. John Vianney 7pm

Mar 24 – Deanery Penance Service – OLA 7pm

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

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

Easter Egg Hunt - we are looking for candy donations for SP/OLA annual Easter Egg Hunt! Any donations are greatly appreciated!

Congratulations to students from SP and OLA receiving the Bishop's Youth award today at the Cathedral. Julia D'Antoni, Maci Harvatine, Tyler Jervis, and Margaret Jones.

Julie Harvatine - jwharv03@gmail.com.

3/20/2026 - Stations of the cross-5th grade families

3/22/2026 - Class

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

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

### **SML FAMILY FAITH FORMATION**

Kerry Pieretti - redlightgreen343@gmail.com

March 22 Class

March 29 Class

### **CONGRATULATIONS**

We congratulate Greg & Nicole Solfanelli on the baptism of their daughter Chiara at Our Lady of the Abingtons on Saturday March 7. Please pray for Chiara and her family.

We congratulate William & Christine Sheehan on the baptism of their son Charles at St Mary of the Lake on Sunday March 8. Please pray for Charles and his family.

## MASS INTENTIONS

### **Tuesday (March 17) St. Patrick, Bishop**

8:00am (OLA) Michael Mulfino

*By Mary Ann Mulfino*

### **Wednesday (March 18) St. Cyril of Jerusalem, Bishop & Doctor of the Church**

8:00am (SP) Catherine Stawowy

*By Pat Moots*

### **Thursday (March 19) St. Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary**

8:00 am (SML) Catherine Strumski

*By James Billings*

### **Saturday (March 21) The Vigil of The Fifth Sunday Of Lent**

4:00 pm (OLA) Richard Ruckowski

*By Theresa & Joseph Burgess*

### **Sunday (March 22) The Fifth Sunday Of Lent**

9:00 am (SML) Peter & Anna Sewatsky

*By Pat Wall*

11:00 am (SP) Jill, Patrick, & Chris Stefanelli

*By Carol Stefanelli*

### **Sanctuary Candle at OLA**

Burning this week for Health & Blessings for Fr. Jack Kilpatrick *By Bob & Andrea Walsh*

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

SP Weekly \$ 2,042.00 Loose \$ 84.00

OLA Weekly \$ 2,326.00 Loose \$ 383.00

SML Weekly \$ 1,443.00 Loose \$ 30.00

*May the Lord reward your generosity*

### **DEANERY LENTEN HOLY HOUR**

Bishop Joseph C. Bambera will be traveling throughout the Diocese of Scranton during Lent to lead Holy Hours in each of the Diocese's 12 deaneries, continuing a tradition that began several years ago. The Lenten Holy Hour for the Clarks Summit Deanery will be held on Thursday, March 19 at Saint John Vianney Parish in Scott Township (Montdale) at 7:00 p.m. All are invited and encouraged to attend. The theme for this year's Lenten Holy Hour will be "Finding Peace in Challenging Times." Please mark your calendar and plan to join us for this special opportunity to gather for prayer, reflection, and Eucharistic devotion during the Lenten season.

### **LAUGH4LIFE**

Pennsylvanians for Human Life invites us to their Laugh4Life on Saturday 3/28/2026 at Waldorf Park Banquet Room in Scranton. Doors open at 5:30 with the show at 7pm. Guests age 21 and older only. \$35 at the door. Cash bar & a la carte menu available for purchase. For more info call 570-343-5099.

### **OUR SAINTS AND THE EUCHARIST**

Servant of God, Fr. Paul of Moll said: "When I distribute Holy Communion, it's the Infant Jesus in person that I see in the Host".