

THE THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

It is Noon. The sun is at its peak. The roads are empty. There is she, once again, our Samaritan woman, at the well to draw water. Everybody in town knows her or thinks they know her. She has a reputation in town, “men eater”. She had had five, and the one she has now, the sixth, is not hers. Well, here is she, in front of a man, a stranger, a kind of prophet who will tell her, “Everything that she has done in her life”. Jesus today speaks to the Samaritan woman in order to reveal to us all that we are capable of receiving the gift of the Holy Spirit. It is very interesting to know that certain people like the Samaritan, people that we despise, God uses them and sends them as missionaries to the gospel. Come and see a man “who told me everything I have done”. During Lent, we have six Sundays, six ways to understand Jesus, six aspects of His Person, six different portraits of His works. On the first Sunday of Lent, we read the story of His Temptations. During the second Sunday of Lent, the man that we see is God, The Transfiguration. On the third Sunday, that’s today, we discover that This Mysterious man is Someone who has something else that He eats, not human foods. On the Fourth Sunday, next Sunday, it’ll be the gospel of the man born blind that Jesus heals. On the Fifth Sunday, we will read the well-known and famous story of the resurrection of Lazarus, and on the Sixth Sunday, The Palm Sunday in which he shows that He will go through sufferings and death to save us. Finally on Easter, He shows that He has power over death, the last enemy.

THE SCRUTINIES

The next 3 Sundays in our Church are called Scrutinies Sundays: the 3rd,4th, and 5th Sundays of Lent. And the gospels of the Samaritan Woman, the Man born blind, and the resurrection of Lazarus are read. During these Sundays, the Catechumens, called Elect, receive the Prayer of the Lord, the Creed and an exorcism. 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 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 MARCH 13 AT SP

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.

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

IMPORTANT MESSAGE FOR ALL LECTORS

On Palm Sunday at each church, Holy Thursday at OLA, Good Friday at SML, and Holy Saturday at SP, 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 by March 17.

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. 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.

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

LITURGICAL MINISTERS / LECTORS SCHEDULE

March 14 & 15

Eucharistic Ministers

4 pm (OLA) Barbara Williamson
9:00am (SML) Ann Marie Gorko
11 am (SP) Pat Carpenter

Musicians

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

Lectors

4 pm (OLA) Judy Zipay
9:00am (SML) Don Ames
11 am (SP) Mary Jo Danoski

Altar Servers

4 pm (OLA) – Jace Biglin
11am (SP) – Kali Harvatine
Shadow – Wyatt Phillips, Nolan Phillips

UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS

Mar 12 – 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
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

Julie Harvatine - jwharv03@gmail.com.
3/13/2026 - Stations of the Cross-4th grade families
3/15/2026 - Class
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
4/5/2026 - No Class - Happy Easter

SML FAMILY FAITH FORMATION

Kerry Pieretti - redlightgreen343@gmail.com
March 15 Class
March 22 Class

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 (March 10) Lenten Weekday

8:00am (OLA) Mary Ann Ketchur
By George & Rosemary Ketchur

Wednesday (March 11) Lenten Weekday

8:00am (SP) Frank Pozer
By Janet Motyka

Thursday (March 12) Lenten Weekday

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

Saturday (March 14) The Vigil of The Fourth Sunday Of Lent

4:00 pm (OLA) David Gruss
By Eleanor Gruss

Sunday (March 15) The Fourth Sunday Of Lent

9:00 am (SML) Angie Columbo
By Pat Stead

11:00 am (SP) A. J. Rutkowski
By Joan Kupetsky

Sanctuary Candle at SML

Burning this week for Yvonne Snyder
By Pat Stead

WEEKLY OFFERINGS (COLLECTIONS)

SP Weekly \$ 5,958.00 Loose \$ 188.00
OLA Weekly \$ 3,646.00 Loose \$ 159.00
SML Weekly \$ 2,395.00 Loose \$ 124.00

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.

ST PATRICKS PHONE NEWS

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

OUR SAINTS AND THE EUCHARIST

Servant of God, Sr. Josefina Menendez. Jesus told her that "The Holy Eucharist is the invention of Love, but how few souls correspond to that love which spends and consumes itself for them".