

### THE FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

Have we listened carefully to the last verse in today's gospel? The last verse says, "When the devil had finished every temptation, he departed from Him for a time". During His whole life, Jesus was always tempted: "Do a miracle like Jonas did....Do what You did in Capernaum.... Father, if it's possible, take away from me this cup...If You are the Son of God, come down from the Cross and save Yourself and save us ...". If anyone wants to know Jesus' life, he has to look at His temptations in today's gospel. If Jesus is tempted, it means we are not out of the loop. Adam and Eve were tempted and succumbed, that means failed. The people of Israel were tempted in the desert and succumbed, that means failed: every single human being is confronted during his life and most likely succumbs, unless we call on Jesus. Jesus's temptations are ours too.

First temptation: A human being is not made only for perishable food.

Second temptation: A human being is not made to test God; man is made not to distance himself from God; man is made to live in communion with God, to live as God's creature.

Third temptation: A human being is not made to dominate his neighbor; is not made to kneel before idols.

Lent helps us to understand that we were made in the image of God. Lent helps us to gather in order to be nourished by God with His Body. Lent helps us to realize that God wants to be in union with us. Lent helps us to know that God is The One who kneels before us to wash our feet. These are the responses to the three temptations.

---

#### 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 on 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 14: St Patrick

Friday March 21: SML

Friday March 28: OLA

Friday April 4: St Patrick

Friday April 11: SML

#### SOUPS FOR FRIDAY MARCH 14 AT SP

SP 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.

#### 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

For any other reason, 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.

#### PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL NEWS

Members of the PPC and the Coordinating Teams met this week to begin planning action steps to meet the goals of the Pastoral Plan. In the areas of Word and Worship, faith formation and increasing opportunities to include youth and family participation in the mass were identified for first action steps. In the areas of Community and Service, creating a sense of belonging between the 3 parishes and developing service opportunities were identified for first action steps. We will meet again April 8 @6:30 in the OLA hall to continue our discussions.

## LITURGICAL MINISTERS / LECTORS SCHEDULE

**March 15 & 16**

### Eucharistic Ministers

4 pm (OLA) Carmel Williams  
9:00am (SML) Ann Marie Gorko  
11 am (SP) Cynthia Singer

### 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) Don Ames  
11 am (SP) Barry Singer

### Altar Servers

11am (SP) Maci Harvatine  
Shadow – Conor McHugh

## UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS

March 14 – Stations, Soup & Scripture at SP, 6pm  
March 16 – St. Patrick Day celebration at SP, 12pm

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

We are making an effort to get more kids to experience the story 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!

Mar 16 – Class

Mar 22 – Confirmation Retreat at St. Eulalia's Church

Mar 23 - 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! (Fridays- check the bulletin for schedule)

Mar 16 – Class

Mar 22 – Confirmation Retreat at St. Eulalia's Church

Mar 23 - Class

### **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. The candy will be sold after the 4pm Mass at OLA on March 15 and at the St. Patrick's Ham & Cabbage celebration on March 16. Any questions call Dorothy at 570-378-2530 or Loretta at 570-378-2256.

### **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.

## MASS INTENTIONS

### **Tuesday (March 11) Lenten Weekday**

8:00 am (OLA) Joseph Motyka  
*By Janet Motyka*

### **Wednesday (March 12) Lenten Weekday**

8:00 am (SP) Beverly Schneider  
*By Liz Dempsey*

### **Thursday (March 13) Lenten Weekday**

8:00 am (SML) William Stead  
*By Ellie Dougherty*

### **Saturday (March 15) The Vigil of The Second**

### **Sunday of Lent**

4:00 pm (OLA) Stanley & Bertha Rysz  
*By Mr. & Mrs. Leonard Kruczek*

### **Sunday (March 16) The Second Sunday of Lent**

9:00 am (SML) Charles Kelly  
*By Don & Carol Ames*

11:00 am (SP) Michael Mulfino  
*By Mary Ann Mulfino*

### **The Sanctuary Candle at OLA**

Burning this week for healing for Frank Chuff

*By Liz Dempsey*

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

SP Weekly \$ 1,400.00 Loose \$ 237.00

OLA Weekly \$ 1,908.00 Loose \$ 13.00

SML Weekly \$ 1,310.00 Loose \$ 101.00

*May the Lord reward your generosity.*

### **IMPORTANT MESSAGE FOR ALL LECTORS**

Last year, we experienced something that we shared with the chancery, and it was very well accepted and many Parishes throughout the diocese are copying it. On Palm Sunday, Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday, no lector will read in his or her church. For instance, lectors at OLA for the Holy Week will be lectors from St Patrick Church and/or from SML, vice versa. So, if you are a lector and want to read in a different church than yours, please call the rectory (only during the Holy Week).

### **MEN'S LENTEN RETREAT APRIL 4 & 5**

The Lenten Retreat will take place in Dalton at the Holy Transfiguration Retreat Center from 6pm on Friday April 4 till 2pm on Saturday April 5. The guest speaker will be John Edwards, the host of "Just a Guy in the Pew" podcast. There are flyers at each church with more information. Contact Joe Adcroft at 570-351-6256 with any questions.

### **POWER OF THE HOLY SACRIFICE OF THE MASS**

"Dear young people: do we want to be happy and joyful? Let us love Jesus in the Sacrament with all our hearts". Saint John Bosco