

THE SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

In today's gospel, Jesus says at least 3 times: "You have heard....or It was said,... but now I say". He is drawing the line. He is setting the record straight. In St. Matthew gospel 7,28-29, (not from today reading), we read this: "When Jesus finished these words, the crowds were astonished at His teaching, for He taught them as one having authority, and not as their scribes". Not only do these words summarize today gospel, but they also highlight who Jesus is. It means that the crowds understood clearly and distinctly who Jesus is. For the Jewish people, the Old Testament makes sense ONLY around the revelation at the Mount Sinai (God to Moses). Jesus's message to say the least is shocking and still shocks people. No doubt that Jesus's words show that He created a new religion. ("You have heard that it was said to your ancestors,.....BUT NOW I SAY...."). Only God can speak this way. In today's gospel, Jesus is recognizing, acknowledging, and confirming the Old Testament that means Moses, the laws, and the Prophets. THE LAW (that's Moses) CANNOT BE SEPARATED FROM THE PROPHECY, It means that the prophets came to lead EVERYTHING to Christ. The Letter to the Hebrews solves this mystery: Heb,1-2: "In times past, God spoke in partial and various ways to our ancestors through the prophets, in these last days He spoke to us through the Son, whom He made Heir of all things and through whom He created the universe". In conclusion, Jesus summarizes, but mostly explains the whole Bible, the Old and the New Testament, that means the entire Revelation of the Mystery in which Heaven weds Earth.

ASH WEDNESDAY MASS SCHEDULE

FEBRUARY 18, 2025

8 am Mass, OLA
with distribution of Ashes
9:30 am Mass at St Pat
with distribution of Ashes
6:30 pm Mass at SML
with distribution of Ashes.

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 February 20: SP Soup and.....Surprise!
Friday February 27: SML Soup and.....Surprise!
Friday March 6: OLA 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 FEBRUARY 20 AT SP

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.

HEALING SERVICE

On Thursday February 19 at 5:30 pm, there will be a healing service at Our Lady of the Abingtons church for the parishioners of all our churches.

PRAY 40 HALLOW CHALLENGE

As a community partnering with Hallow, our parish page is a place to join prayer challenges, share prayer intentions and connect more deeply with our parish family. Join us as we walk together into Lent, alongside our whole community. The Lent Pray40 waitlist is available now on our Hallow church page (info is available on NEPCatholic.com).Prayer is not meant to be done alone... Share Pray40 with your family and friends so they can join millions in returning to God our Father this Lent, guided by Jonathan Roumie, Mark Wahlberg, Chris Pratt, Sister Miriam, Fr. Mike Schmitz, Mother Olga and Jeff Cavins!

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.

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.

LITURGICAL MINISTERS / LECTORS SCHEDULE

February 21 & 22

Eucharistic Ministers

4 pm (OLA) Barbara Williamson

9:00am (SML) Andrea Walsh

11 am (SP) Michele Zajac

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) Seb Naro

11 am (SP) Liz Dempsey

Altar Servers

4 pm (OLA) – Margaret Jones, Kevin Jones

11am (SP) – Corinne Flynn

Shadow –Conor McHugh

UPCOMING MEETNGS & EVENTS

Feb 16 – Church Office closed for President’s Day

Feb 19 – Healing service at OLA, 5:30pm

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

Feb 21 – Sleeping Bag Project at SP Hall, 10am to 4pm

Feb 22 – All Faith Formation Students combined

Valentine Breakfast at SML after 9am Mass

SP/OLA FAMILY FAITH FORMATION

Julie Harvatine - jwharv03@gmail.com.

2/20/2026 - Stations of the Cross, at SP, K-1 families to participate

2/22/2026 - Joint breakfast and lesson after mass students attend class at SML with mass starting at 9 AM -11AM

2/27/2026 - Stations of the cross 7th and 2nd grades to participate

3/1/2026 - Class - 3rd grade mass SP 11 AM

SML FAMILY FAITH FORMATION

Kerry Pieretti - redlightgreen343@gmail.com

Feb. 22 - FFF Valentine breakfast at SML

Wear pink or red!

Feb. 29 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. No donations are needed. 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 (February 17) The Seven Holy Founders of the Servite Order

8:00am (OLA) Gene Hoch

By Janet Motyka

Wednesday (February 18) Ash Wednesday

8:00am (OLA) Mary Ann Ketchur

By Bob & Andrea Walsh

9:30am (SP) Jersey & Michael Rodrigues

By Carol Stefanelli

6:30pm (SML) Bill Waters

By Bill Waters Estate

Thursday (February 19) Thursday after Ash Wednesday

8:00 am (SML) Yvonne Snyder

By Prayer Shawl Ministry

Saturday (February 21) The Vigil of The First Sunday Of Lent

4:00 pm (OLA) Richard Ruckowski

By Theresa & Joseph Burgess

Sunday February 22) The First Sunday Of Lent

9:00 am (SML) Gratitude & Blessings for All Organ Donors

By Danny Williams Jr.

11:00 am (SP) Adam Konopka Jr. & Jason Konopka

By The Konopka Family

Sanctuary Candle at OLA

Burning this week for Health & Healing for Isabel

Franco *By Tony & Rita Sandy*

Sanctuary Candle at SML

Burning this week for Health & Blessings for Pat

Wall *By Bob & Andrea Walsh*

WEEKLY OFFERINGS (COLLECTIONS)

SP Weekly \$ 1199.00 Loose \$ 78.00

OLA Weekly \$ 1,820.00 Loose \$ 39.00

SML Weekly \$ 2,215.00 Loose \$ 232.00

May the Lord reward your generosity

LENTEN SLEEPING BAG PROJECT

All are welcome to come help make sleeping bags for the homeless in the St. Pat’s Hall on Saturday February 21st from 10am to 4pm. No sewing skills required. Donations of blankets, fabric, thread, yarn, toiletries, and men’s ties can be placed in the blue barrel at the Hall entrance. For information, please call Joan at 570-468-6903.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS POTLUCK

The Knights of Columbus will hold a potluck dinner at OLA on 23 February. The dinner will be preceded by a Mass in the Church at 6pm.

OUR SAINTS AND THE EUCHARIST

Venerable Margaret of The Blessed Sacrament: she was suffering great pain and could receive relief only in the presence of The Blessed Sacrament.