

THE EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Today's meditation of the word of God comes to us through the First Reading, from the book of Sirach, also called Wisdom of Sirach or the Book of Ecclesiasticus (not to be mistaken with another book of the Bible called Ecclesiastes). This book was written in Jerusalem around the year 180 before Christ. Then translated in Greek language, in Alexandria (Egypt). It's one of the books that we don't find in the Jewish Holy Book. The only reason why we can't find it in the Jewish Bible is because the Jewish Bible recognizes only the books that were written in Hebrew language and written on the Jewish territory. At the time when they were putting together the Jewish Bible, the only existing copies were in Greek language. But later on, the Hebrew version was found, but it was late. The book of Sirach is one of the Seven books of the Old Testament that Protestants don't have, they don't acknowledge nor recognize it. This book talks about wisdom, about God's wisdom; it treats subjects like death, sin, freedom, God's mercy, creation, etc....

Today's First Reading in a few words suggests to never judge nor condemn someone without hearing him first. We find a reference in the gospel of John 7,51: We read: "Does our law judge a man without first hearing from him?"

ASH WEDNESDAY MASS SCHEDULE

MARCH 5, 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 & 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 on forgiveness not based on our merit, but solely on God's grace and His plan for our salvation.

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 7: OLA

Friday March 14: St Patrick

Friday March 21: SML

Friday March 28: OLA

Friday April 4: St Patrick

Friday April 11: SML

PS. We will pay close attention to the weather which could affect some Fridays.

SOUPS FOR FRIDAY MARCH 7 AT OLA

OLA 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.

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).

SP POTATO PANCAKE FUNDRAISER

The sale will take place this Friday, March 7 with pick-up from 4:30 to 6:30pm. Orders can be placed starting Sunday March 2 to Thursday March 6 at noon. One order is 3 pancakes for \$6. To place and order call 570-563-1622. If nobody answers you can leave a message. You can also follow our Parish's NEPA CATHOLIC Facebook's Francine's Famous Potato Pancakes Event page for more info. You can come pick up some pancakes even if you haven't placed an order, but it's better, safer, and surer to place the order.

**ST. PATRICK DAY HAM & CABBAGE
CELEBRATION AT ST PAT'S HALL**

On Sunday March 16th 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 9. 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.

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.

LITURGICAL MINISTERS / LECTORS SCHEDULE

March 8 & 9

Eucharistic Ministers

4 pm (OLA) Barbara Williamson
9:00am (SML) Bob Andrews
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) Steve Zdaniewicz
11 am (SP) Mary Ann Mulfino

Altar Servers

11am (SP) Corinne Flynn
Shadow – Nolan Matulevich

UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS

March 3 – Disciples of Mary Mtg at SML, 6:45pm
March 4 – Pastoral Council Mtg.- OLA Hall, 6:30pm
March 5 – Ash Wednesday Mass schedule on page 1
March 7 – Stations, Soup & Scripture at OLA, 6pm
March 8 -Sleeping Bag Project at SP Hall, 10am-3pm

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 5 – Ash Wednesday

Mar 7 – Stations of the Cross OLA 6pm

Mar 9 - Class

SML FAMILY FAITH FORMATION NEWS

Mar 5 – Ash Wednesday

Mar 9 – Off - Spring Break

Mar 16 – 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.

LENTEN SLEEPING BAG PROJECT

The Interact Club at Lackawanna Trail High School is making sleeping bags for our Homeless neighbors on Saturday, March 8 from 10 to 3PM at St Patrick Parish Hall in Nicholson. If you would like to help, you can join us for an hour or two, or donate blankets, comforters, fabric, sheets, men's ties or hygiene items. For details, contact Joan at 570-468-6903.

MASS INTENTIONS

Tuesday (March 4) St. Casimir

8:00 am (OLA) Ben Adams
By Chris & Stephanie Adams

Ash Wednesday (March 5)

8:00 am (OLA) Inga Kaab
By Rita & Tony Sandy
9:30 am (SP) Pat Webster
By Barbara Kelly
6:30 pm (SML) Healing & Blessings for
Danny Williams Jr.
By SML Choir

Thursday (March 6) Thursday After Ash

Wednesday

8:00 am (SML) Colleen Zdaniewicz
By Theresa Zdaniewicz

Saturday (March 8) The Vigil of The First Sunday of Lent

4:00 pm (OLA) Jeff Fleming
By Valerie Serine & Jay Langan

Sunday (March 9) The First Sunday of Lent

9:00 am (SML) Bob Gaffney
By Maureen Gaffney
11:00 am (SP) Rutkowski & Potansky Family
By Joan Kupetsky

WEEKLY OFFERINGS (COLLECTIONS)

SP Weekly	\$ 2,048.00	Loose	\$ 123.00
OLA Weekly	\$ 2,037.00	Loose	\$ 38.00
SML Weekly	\$ 1,875.00	Loose	\$ 146.00

May the Lord reward your generosity.

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.

CAPUCHIN SISTERS 2ND COLLECTION

Thank you to all who contributed to the second collection at SML last Sunday to support the Capuchin Sisters, your generosity amounted to \$1,303.00.

POWER OF THE HOLY SACRIFICE OF THE MASS

“Before communion, implore Mary to lend you Her heart so that you may receive Her Son with Her disposition.” St. Louis Marie Grignion de Montfort.