

# SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

FEBRUARY 23, 2020

		†	MASS INTENTIONS	†
Sat.	2/22	4:00 PM	Andrew Blasko, Sr. by Paula	
Sun.	2/23	11:00 AM	Deborah Pshar Bonner by Her Mother Elsie Pshar	
Mon.	2/24	9:00 AM	<b>TV Mass</b> Clara Novotnak by Her Brother Nick Swankowski	
		7:00 PM	Deceased Members of the Capozzelli Family by the Capozzelli Family	
Tue.	2/25	7:00 AM	Eleanor J. Schneider by Godfrey Bellinghausen	
Wed.	2/26	7:00 AM	<b>Ash Wednesday</b> Eugene Thomas by Mrs. Loretta DeBalko	
		7:00 PM	<b>Ash Wednesday</b> George Sarosky by Helen Howanitz	
Thur.	2/27	7:00 AM	Jean Iorio by Her Daughters Susan, Janet, and Ruth	
Fri.	2/28	7:00 AM	George P. Gombeda by Marianne and Lisa	
Sat.	2/29	4:00 PM	Rocco and Elizabeth Bellezza by Their Daughters and Family, Geraldine Gordon and Rose and Seth Wheeland	
Sun.	3/1	11:00 AM	Mary Dinofrio by Anna Marie Kopczynskie	



### Last Weekend:

Sunday \$3,943.00; Loose \$136.00; Dues \$648.00; Care and Education of Priests \$45.00; Initial Offering \$20.00; Ash Wednesday \$12.00; Solemnity of Mary \$15.00; Christmas \$60.00; Church in Europe \$10.00; Catholic Relief \$5.00; Poor Box \$155.34

**CANDLES ON THE ALTAR** are in Memory of Rocco and Elizabeth Bellezza by Their Daughters and Family, Geraldine Gordon and Rose and Seth Wheeland



**SANCTUARY LAMP** is burning in Memory of Gertrude Opert by Her Family

**SPECIAL COLLECTION** on Ash Wednesday, February 26th, will be for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe Including Collection for the Church in Lithuania, Poland, and Slovakia

**ASH WEDNESDAY** is this Wednesday, **February 26th**. Ashes will be distributed at Immaculate Conception Parish after the 7:00 AM mass, the 4:00 PM prayer service, and the 7:00 PM mass. Ashes will be distributed at Good Shepherd Parish after the 8:00 AM mass, the 12:00 PM prayer service, and the 5:00 PM mass. **Just a Reminder:**

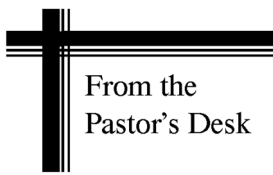


**Ash Wednesday is a day of fast and abstinence.** Everyone ages 18-59 should fast by eating only one full meal, and everyone ages 14 and older must abstain from eating meat. **Every Friday during Lent is a day of abstinence from eating meat.**



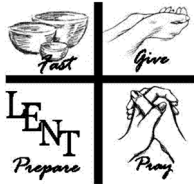
**STATIONS OF THE CROSS** will be offered at Immaculate Conception Parish every Friday during Lent at noon and again at 7:00 PM beginning this Friday, February 28th. The evening Stations will include Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction from 6:00 to 6:55 PM. Stations of the Cross will be offered at Good Shepherd Parish every Friday at 4:00 PM with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament from 3:00 - 3:45 PM and Benediction at 3:45 PM.

"One in Christ Prayer Group" meets each Monday at Annunciation Parish (St. Gabriel's) at 6:30 PM on Monday evenings. We begin with the Rosary or Divine Mercy chaplet on alternating weeks. We follow with song, praise, and prayer, ending at 8 PM. You are welcome to join us. Try it once, you might like it.



From the  
Pastor's Desk

Nellie was (and is) a good person. She worked for a social agency and helped out at her church as a Lector and Eucharistic Minister. Quiet by nature, she did her jobs dutifully. At the agency where she worked someone made an accusation about her (the nature of the offense is not important). She was removed from her position (without pay) and her case hit the media. She called the pastor and told him it might be best that she resign from ministry at the altar. He reluctantly agreed. After a 12-month investigation, she was proven innocent. What I most admired about Nellie was that she never once lambasted those who accused her. She was silent. She went to Mass on a daily basis. Nellie turned her cheek. Nellie was Jesus! How would you react?



### A VIEW FROM THE PEW, WHERE'S THE BEEF?

Back in the early 80's Wendy's, a fast food restaurant, featured a commercial starring a little old lady ordering a hamburger at a rival restaurant. After receiving a puny burger on a rather large roll, she exclaimed to the clerk, "Where's the beef?" We can relate to this commercial spiritually and it ties in nicely with our Lenten theme, "NOT BY BREAD ALONE..." We all try to fill the bun with material wants and desires and are still left unsatisfied. What's the "meat" of our Lenten journey? The word of God! That's what lent is all about. Preparation and sacrifice for Easter is necessary to have a closer and more perfect relationship with Jesus Christ in the Eucharist.



**SANCTUARY LAMP** is kept continually lit to indicate and honor the presence of Christ." The red sanctuary lamp is a sign that the Lord is always present. If you would like to have this lamp burning in memory of your loved one, you can schedule it by the week. The cost for each week is \$25.00. If you would like to reserve the Sanctuary Lamp, please call the parish office at 570-636-3035.

**FORGET-ME-NOT GIFT BAGS:** We are once again sponsoring the Forget-Me-Not Gift Bags for our elderly parishioners. Tags are now hanging on the tree. Please have all bags on the altar or in the parish office by March 28th so that we can get them organized and ready for delivery. If anyone would like to volunteer to help deliver bags to our nursing home residents and local residents, please contact Janet in the parish office at 570-636-3035.

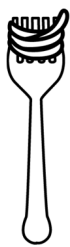


**LOTTERY TICKETS** for March are now on sale in the back of the church.

**BAPTISMAL PREPARATION CLASS:** Our next Baptismal Preparation Class with Deacon Jim will be held on **Tuesday, March 24th**, at Immaculate Conception and on **Thursday, March 26th**, at Good Shepherd. This class is mandatory for ALL parents wishing to baptize their children. Please register by calling the parish office of Immaculate Conception at 570-636-3035 or Good Shepherd at 570-788-3141.



**HOUR OF KINDNESS** will meet on **Saturday, March 14th, at 9:00 AM** in the rectory to sign and address Easter cards for our nursing home residents and shut-ins. Anyone who would like to donate an hour of kindness is welcome and encouraged to come.



**FREELAND LITTLE LEAGUE SPAGHETTI DINNER** - March 7, 2020 from 3:00 PM to 8:00 PM at St. Michael's Recreation Center. Includes: Choice of pasta with choice of Mariana (red) or Alfredo (white) Sauces, Meatballs, Salad & Bread. Drinks will include Soda, Coffee, and Hot Tea. You have the option of Dining in or Take-Out. Adults \$9.00 in advance or \$10.00 a t the door. Kids (12 and under) are \$6.00; Age 4 and under are free (dine in only).



**FAITH FORMATION NEWS** - Our Confirmation Class will hold a Children's Bingo to be held this **Sunday, February 23rd** at Good Shepherd parish in Drums. Doors open at 12:00 PM and BINGO begins at 1:00 PM. The prizes are amazing leading up to two 32" screen TVs and the Grand Prize is a 50" screen TV. There will be Tricky Trays, a Bake Sale, and Great Food. Lots of fun and a fantastic afternoon for the children.



March 1st please send the Mass Attendance Cards to class with your child.

Congratulations to our Second Grade Students who received their first Reconciliation this Saturday. A heartfelt Thank You to our entire first grade team. Our teacher, students, and parents have come together to prepare a celebration for the Second Grade Students in honor of their First Reconciliation. Awesome Job!!!

### **DEANERY LENTEN RETREAT ON THE ROAD TO RESURRECTION**

with the Rev. Thomas O'Hara, C.S.C. as Guest Celebrant and Homilist. The Schedule is as follows: March 2nd at 6:30 PM Church of Saint Gabriel, Hazleton; March 3rd at 6:30 PM Church of the Holy Rosary, Hazleton; March 4th at 6:30 PM St. Joseph Church, Hazleton; March 5th at 6:30 PM Most Precious Blood Church, Hazleton. Please plan on joining us in this special regional Lenten celebration. Several priests will be available each evening following the service for confession in preparation for Easter.



**FATHER McHUGH'S LENTEN SCRIPTURE SESSIONS FOR FEBRUARY HAVE BEEN CANCELLED. FATHER McHUGH WILL UPDATE US AS TO HIS MARCH SCHEDULE.**

**ASH WEDNESDAY RETREAT** - The Office for Parish Life will offer a Retreat on Wednesday, February 26, 2020 at the Diocesan Pastoral Center, 330 Wyoming Avenue, Scranton. The day will begin at 9:30 a.m. and end at 2:30 p.m. The faithful of the Diocese are invited to share in this day of prayer. Catherine Butel, Diocesan Secretary for Parish Life, will lead the retreat with the theme "Radiate Christ." The day will include the 12:10 p.m. Mass celebrated in St. Peter's Cathedral. The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be available prior to Mass, and lunch will be served after Mass. The fee is \$30, which includes lunch. To register, just click on the link below. <https://www.dioceseofscranton.org/parish-life/ash-wednesday-retreat/>. Hope you can all attend.