

EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

MARCH 3, 2019

† MASS INTENTIONS †

Sat.	3/2	4:00 PM	Mike Bobby by His Wife Pat and Family
Sun.	3/3	7:30 AM	Gloria Gabrielle by Bob and Nancy Quinn and Family
		10:30 AM	For the People
Mon.	3/4	7:00 PM	Joseph Cukauskas, Sr. by M/M William Maranki
Tue.	3/5	7:00 AM	Andrew, Raymond, and Joseph Ambrose by Maureen
Wed.	3/6	7:00 AM	Ash Wednesday Patricia Verba by Jennifer McGee
		7:00 PM	Ash Wednesday Frances Spock by Martha Drost
Thur.	3/7	7:00 AM	John Bobby by His Wife Marguerite and Family
Fri.	3/8	7:00 AM	John Yencho by His Family
Sat.	3/9	4:00 PM	Angie Puzzetti and Family by Michalene and Jim Eisenhart
Sun.	3/10	7:30 AM	Sonia and Stanley Wilczek by Their Son Stan
		10:30 AM	For the People

Last Weekend:



Sunday \$3,290.00; Dues \$3,170.00; Care and Education of Priests \$10.00; Church in Europe \$0.26; Poor Box \$143.81

CANDLES ON THE ALTAR are in Memory of Andrew, Raymond, and Joseph Ambrose by Maureen



CAPITAL CAMPAIGN MEMORIAL DONATION of \$150.00 in Memory of Father Matthey by Mike and Barbara Tulanowski

POOR BOX DONATION of \$25.00 was made in Memory of Father Matthey by Lillian Urenovich and Children; \$10.00 in Memory of Father Matthey by an Anonymous Donor

SPECIAL COLLECTION on Ash Wednesday, March 6th, 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, **March 6th**. Ashes will be distributed after the 7:00 AM mass, the 4:00 PM prayer service, and the 7:00 PM mass. **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 should abstain from eating meat. **Every Friday during Lent is a day of abstinence from eating meat.**



STATIONS OF THE CROSS will be offered every Friday during Lent at noon and again at 7:00 PM beginning this Friday, March 8th. The evening Stations will include Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction from 6:00 to 6:55 PM.



FOOD PANTRY DONATION for March is peanut butter and jelly. The next distribution date is Tuesday, March 26th.





This weekend's Gospel is the perfect introduction to the Lenten Season which will begin this Wednesday. Plank and Criticism! Look at those two words. Jesus challenges us to remove the plank from our own eye before we criticize others. Most of us will give up the standards for Lent (cursing, food, smoking, ice cream, alcohol, etc.). THIS Lent, Jesus is asking us to move beyond the "standards" and look at ourselves to make real lasting change. We are to look at our OWN faults and correct them. We cannot make ourselves look good by criticizing others - stop judging. So, each morning, look in the mirror at the person staring back at you and vow to change one negative thing about yourself. Take it one step further. Vow to be an agent of compassion to those you meet on a daily basis, instead of criticizing. Plank gone! Criticism stopped!



A VIEW FROM THE PEW: ARE YOU BEING CALLED?

It's that time again, Lent. I know, it's time to sacrifice something but I'll probably go through the motions and give up something simple and call it Lent, right? Why not try a different approach and just listen? Is God calling you to do more? Is there something that picks at your brain at Mass and nudges you to be involved? Listen to that voice and consider one of our parish ministries that include: Altar Server, Choir, Lector, Legion of Mary, Liturgy Committee, Messengers of Hope, and Religious Education. The six weeks of Lent will each highlight a ministry, so you will have an idea as to what each one is all about. Make Lent different this year, **CHOOSE TO SERVE!**

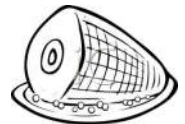


PARISH BUS TRIP to Hunterdon Hills Playhouse on Wednesday, April 24th, to see "Take Me Away." Cost is \$83.00. Call Mary Lloyd at 570-578-6720 to make reservations. Deadline is April 3rd.

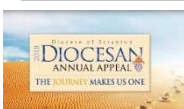
The Annual Solemn Novena to St. Joseph will begin on Sunday, March 10th, at the Oblates of St. Joseph Chapel on Route 315 in Laflin. Masses are celebrated daily at 11 AM and 7 PM, followed by Novena prayers and individual blessing with the first-class relic of St. Joseph Marelllo, Founder of the St. Joseph Oblates Congregation. Each Novena Mass is preceded by an opportunity for Confessions and recitation of the Holy Rosary. The Feast of St. Joseph will be celebrated on Tuesday, March 19th with Mass at 11:00 a.m. with His Excellency, Bishop Joseph C. Bambera, as principal celebrant and homilist. At the conclusion of the Holy Mass, St. Joseph's medals will be blessed and distributed. There also will be a Holy Mass at 7:00 PM. Everyone is welcome to participate and offer prayers to St. Joseph for personal intentions. For more information, contact the OSJ seminary office at (570-654-7542).



OUR HAM BINGO is Sunday, April 7th in the Parish Center. Kitchen opens at 11:30 AM, Early Birds at 12:30 PM, Regular Bingo starts at 1:00 PM. Come out and play! Enjoy good food, fun, and a chance to win your Easter ham!



THE LIGHT IS ON FOR YOU! During Lent, you are encouraged to take the opportunity to experience the joy and peace that comes from receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation. The really awesome thing about confession is not the sinner nor the sin. The power of confession is the mercy of God. Father Mike is leaving the light on just for YOU!



DIOCESAN APPEAL DONORS: Miss Desiree Anderson; Mr. David Charnigo; M/M Michael Drumn; M/M Matthew Kopczynskie; M/M Joseph Maduro; M/M John Witchin, Jr.

PARISH HAPPENINGS!

FORGET-ME-NOT GIFT BAGS: The Messengers of Hope are once again sponsoring the Forget-Me-Not Gift Bags for our elderly parishioners.



The Forget-Me-Not tags will be hung on the tree starting this weekend.

There have been questions about what type of items should go into the bag. Below are some possible suggestions. There are also items that should avoid being added at the bottom of this page. These are only suggestions. Please make sure that everything you include in your bag is **NEW** and not used. **FORGET-ME-NOT GIFT BAGS** are due on the altar or in the parish office by April 7th.

Suggested Items:

Rosary beads	Gift card to Carone's	Q-tips
Prayer book	Gift card to CVS	Assorted Band-Aids
Forever postage stamps	Gift Card to Wal-Mart	Playing cards
All occasion cards	Gift card to Boscov's	Large print puzzle books
Shampoo	Deodorant	Jigsaw puzzles
Disposable razors	Mouthwash	Adult coloring books
Shaving cream	Non-skid Footsies	Colored pencils
Hand Cream	Fleece throw	AA and AAA batteries
Body lotion	Tooth paste	Night light
Bath Soap	Tooth brush	Note pads
Liquid Hand Soap	Denture cleanser	Rain hat
Tissues	Soft grip gel pens	Mini umbrella
Lip balm	Hand warmers	Calculator
Pill organizer	Magnifying glass	Neck pillow
Hair brush	Mini flashlight	Scratch-off lottery tickets

Items to avoid:

Candy, snacks, nuts or items with nuts should be avoided in case of allergy or diabetes; also, paper products like paper towels or toilet tissue are not recommended.

Notice Regarding Reporting Sexual Abuse of a Minor

It is the policy of the Diocese of Scranton to report any allegation of sexual abuse of a minor to law enforcement. If you are a victim of sexual abuse committed by a priest, deacon, religious or lay employee or volunteer of the Diocese of Scranton, you are encouraged to immediately report the matter to law enforcement. If any priest, deacon, religious, lay employee or volunteer of the Diocese of Scranton has cause or reason to suspect that a minor has been subjected to any form of abuse, including child sexual abuse, the matter will be reported to law enforcement. In accordance with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's Child Protective Services Laws, reports of suspected child abuse should also be made immediately by phone to the 24-Hour Child Abuse hotline (ChildLine) 1-800-932-0313 or electronically at www.compass.state.pa.us/cwis. It is also the policy of the Diocese to adhere to all civil and state regulations. To this end, the Diocese is equally committed to adhering to the norms of the Code of Canon Law and to upholding the tenets of the USCCB Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People, which includes supporting victims of sexual abuse in their pursuit of emotional and spiritual well-being. As such, information regarding an allegation of sexual abuse of a minor should also be reported to the Victim Assistance Coordinator Mary Beth Pacuska at (570-862-7551) or to Diocesan officials, including the Vicar General, Monsignor Thomas M. Muldowney, V.G., at (570-207-2269).

Aviso al Respeto de Reportar el Abuso Sexual de Un Menor de Edad

Es la norma de la Diócesis de Scranton reportar cualquier alegación de abuso sexual de un menor de edad a las autoridades. Si usted es una víctima de abuso sexual cometido por un sacerdote, diácono, religioso o empleado laico, o voluntario de la Diócesis de Scranton, usted está obligado a reportar el asunto inmediatamente a las autoridades de la ley. Si algún sacerdote, diácono, religioso, empleado laico o voluntario de la Diócesis de Scranton tiene sospecha de que un menor de edad ha sido sujeto a cualquier forma de abuso, incluyendo abuso sexual de menor de edad, el asunto será reportado a las autoridades de la ley. De conformidad con la Comunidad de los Servicios de Protección Infantil de Pennsylvania Leyes, informes de sospecha de abuso de niños también debe hacerse inmediatamente por teléfono las 24 horas maltrato infantil hotline (ChildLine) al 1-800-932-0313 o electrónicamente en www.compass.state.pa.us/cwis. Es la norma de la Diócesis defender todas las regulaciones civiles y del estado. Al fin de que la Diócesis esté comprometida igualmente a defender las normas del Código de Derecho Canónico y defender los principios de la Carta Para la Protección de Niños y Jóvenes (Conferencia de los Obispos Católicos de los Estados Unidos), lo cual incluye apoyar a las víctimas de abuso sexual en pos del bienestar emocional y espiritual. Por eso, información respecto a una alegación del asunto sexual de un menor de edad, debe ser reportada a la Coordinadora Diocesana de Asistencia para Las Víctimas Maria Beth Pacuska, a (570-862-7551) o a los oficiales diocesanos incluyendo El Vicario General, Monseñor Thomas M. Muldowney, a (570-207-2269).



A WALK WITH GOD THROUGH LENT

Every Wednesday Evening from 6:00 to 7:00 PM

Wednesday, March 13th, in Immaculate Conception Church

Wednesday, March 20th, in St. Patrick's Church

Wednesday, March 27th, in Immaculate Conception Church

Wednesday, April 3rd, in St. Patrick's Church

Wednesday, April 10th, in Immaculate Conception Church

Wednesday, April 17th, in St. Patrick's Church

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH

Holy Thursday, April 18th at 7:00 PM.

Good Friday, April 19th at 1:00 PM.

Blessing of Baskets, Saturday, April 20th at 11:00 AM.

Easter Vigil, Saturday, April 20th at 8:00 PM.

Easter Sunday, April 21st at 7:30 AM and 10:30 AM.

ST. PATRICK'S PARISH

Holy Thursday, April 18th at 7:00 PM.

Good Friday, April 19th at 2:00 PM.

Blessing of Baskets, Saturday, April 20th at 12:00 PM

Easter Vigil, Saturday April 20th at 8:00 PM.

Easter Sunday, April 21st at 8:30 AM and 11:00 AM.

LENTEN SCHEDULE FOR RECONCILIATION
AND STATIONS OF THE CROSS:



IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH:

Monday evenings before the 7:00 PM mass from 6:00 - 6:50 PM;
Every Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday morning from 6:15 - 6:50 AM;
Saturday afternoons from 3:00 - 3:30 PM.

ST. PATRICK'S PARISH:

Monday mornings from 7:00 - 7:50 AM;
Wednesday evening from 5:00 - 5:45 PM
Saturday afternoons from 5:00 - 5:30 PM.

There Will Be No Communal Penance Service At Either Parish.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH:

Friday at Noon

Friday evenings at 7:00 PM

with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
and Benediction from 6:00 to 6:55 PM



ST. PATRICK'S PARISH:

Friday evening at 6:00 PM

BISHOP BAMBERA'S LENTEN MESSAGE – 2019

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Ash Wednesday, the start of Lent, is typically the one day within the liturgical year that rivals Easter and Christmas, with throngs of people flocking to our churches despite the fact that there is no obligation to attend Mass. Faithful come to worship, to pray and to be so marked with the sign of the cross that all who encounter them know who they are as followers of Jesus – our crucified and risen Savior.

It's fair to say, however, that while the rituals and words of Ash Wednesday remain the same as they always have been, this year is different. The Church in the United States – and beyond – has been through a year of tremendous suffering, upheaval and frustration as it has confronted the reality of countless numbers of allegations of sexual misconduct and cover-up by Church leaders. Some Catholics have stopped going to Church altogether because of this scandal. And those who remain undoubtedly have had their faith tested and their confidence in the Church's ministers shaken.

But Ash Wednesday and Lent, by their very nature, carry with them opportunities like no other time within the Church year. With a focus upon conversion, forgiveness and the new life that we are given through the suffering, death and resurrection of Jesus, our participation in the journey of Lent – from Ash Wednesday to Easter – has the power to renew our spirits and strengthen our hope. Indeed, this unique journey provides us with a framework within which all of us can affirm that while heartbroken because of the reality of sin within our midst and in our lives, this is still *our* Church. And this Church – this community of saints and sinners – is still the visible body in and through which Christ is present and at work among us.

This year, more than ever, Lent beckons each of us to stand in awe of God's merciful love and to utter words that we would be wise to offer every day of our lives, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You alone have the words of life" (*John 6:68*).

During this blessed season, our parishes will provide numerous opportunities for prayer and reflection. Of note will be the creation of a special *Stations of the Cross* through which we will pray for the healing of victims and their families and for the renewal of all our lives as believers in Jesus. To provide for the celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation in a generous manner, once again, all of the parishes of the Diocese of Scranton will participate in *The Light Is On For You*. Every Monday evening during the Lenten season, beginning on the first Monday of Lent, March 11, and continuing through Monday of the last full week of Lent, April 8, confessions will be heard in every parish from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

For many of us, the question of "what's next" in the Church has arisen more than we would likely care to admit. Yet, we must never forget that it is in and through the life of the Church that our faith is most fully nourished. This same Church still remains our surest hope for salvation and peace, not because we have earned it or deserve it, but because of the grace of God and the call freely given to each of us through Baptism to live as disciples of Jesus.

May our embrace of this holy season enable us to glimpse into the mystery of God's plan for our salvation. Choosing to allow his merciful love and forgiveness to shine forth within the Church – this all too human body of believers – God continues to call each of us to "go forth" and to never lose sight of the mission entrusted to our care: to bring life to the world through our faith in Jesus Christ.

Wherever we fit into the Church – as a family member, parishioner or leader – may we support one another during this difficult moment in our history and so discover the true reason for our hope as we journey together to Easter.

Faithfully yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, D.D., J.C.L.
Bishop of Scranton