

✠ **MASS INTENTIONS** ✠

Sat.	3/10	4:00 PM	Anna, George, and Ronald Dudinyak by Elizabeth and Richard Dudinyak
Sun.	3/11	7:30 AM	For the People
		10:30 AM	☘ Deceased Members of the Sons of Erin ☘
Mon.	3/12	7:00 PM	Robert J. McNulty, Jr. by His Family
Tue.	3/13	7:00 AM	Eugene Thomas by Ron Feussner
Wed.	3/14	7:00 AM	<b>NO MASS</b>
Thur.	3/15	7:00 AM	Deceased Members of the Balas Family
Fri.	3/16	7:00 AM	Mary Beth Kopczynskie by Husband, Daughters, and Sons-in-Law
Sat.	3/17	4:00 PM	Angie Puzetti and Family by Jim and Michalene Eisenhart
Sun.	3/18	7:30 AM	For the People
		10:30 AM	Deborah Pshar Bonner by Her Mother Elsie Pshar and Michael Pshar by His Wife Elsie Pshar and Family



**Last Weekend:**

Sunday \$3,939.86; Dues \$834.00; Care and Education of Priests \$800.71; Easter Flowers \$60.00; Holy Thursday \$31.00; Good Friday \$61.00; Holy Land Sanctuary \$17.00; Church in Europe \$42.00; Initial Offering \$5.00; Catholic Relief \$77.00; Poor Box \$217.97

**MEMORIAL DONATION** of \$50.00 was made in Memory of Joseph LaPorte by Joan LaPorte and Gary Shuman

**MEMORIAL DONATION** of \$100.00 was made in Memory of George Dinofrio by George and Maureen Dinofrio

**CANDLES ON THE ALTAR** are in Memory of Mary Beth Kopczynskie by Her Husband, Daughters, and Sons-in-Law



**STATIONS OF THE CROSS** will be offered every Friday during Lent at Noon and again at 7:00 PM beginning this Friday, February 16th. The evening Stations will include Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Benediction, and Personal Prayer from 6:00 to 6:55 PM.

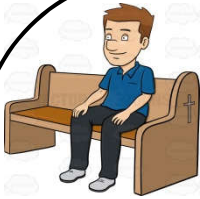


**FAITH FORMATION NEWS:** On **March 18th**, the 10:30 AM mass will be the second grade children's mass.

**March 25th** will be the Palm Sunday Procession at the 10:30 AM Mass. All students are asked to participate in the procession and mass attendance.



The author of John's Gospel often uses the term "light." It is, of course, a reference to Jesus. In the middle of Lent, we are today given an image of "light." In the midst of the darkness of Lent, we are encouraged to get a glimpse of the LIGHT of what Jesus represents. This season asks us to turn away from sin (darkness) and turn to the Gospel (light). Here's our challenge this week: Begin the process of getting rid of sin (go to confession) and embracing the LIGHT - Jesus. Between the two parishes there is an average of six hours of open confession. Dispel the darkness of sin and see the LIGHT!



### A VIEW FROM THE PEW, SYMBOLS OF LENT AND PRETZELS.

I read an interesting article about Lenten symbols from the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis called Rediscover. The article listed the obvious, but here are a few I found interesting. **FISH**, this symbol is an obvious one which we are familiar with; the Lenten symbol of fasting on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday and no meat on Fridays. The symbol of a fish was also used as a means of identification during the Roman persecution. The fish was also used in pagan religions, so it did not cause suspicion among the Roman authorities. One would draw half of the fish when people would meet and if the other person completed the fish they knew they were Christians. **MONEY BAGS** symbolize the Lenten penitential practice of almsgiving. "Prayer and fasting are good, but better than either is almsgiving accompanied by righteousness. It is better to give alms than to store up gold, for almsgiving saves one from death and expiates every sin. Those who give alms shall enjoy a full life." (Tob 12:8,9) **PRETZELS** had their origin in early Christian Lenten practice. Fat, eggs and milk were forbidden during Lent so a special dough was made with just flour, salt, and water. The little breads were shaped in the form of arms crossed in prayer and were called "bracellae" (Latin, 'little arms'). Among the Germans the Latin word became 'bretzel'. This was a common Lenten food in the Middle Ages in Europe and didn't become a year-round snack, the pretzel, until the 19<sup>th</sup> Century. Stones, bread, fish and pretzels are just a few things to contemplate on our journey through Lent as we soften our hearts!



**FOOD PANTRY DONATION** for March is Easter candy. The next distribution will be Tuesday, March 27th. Volunteers are needed to help unload the truck at 1:00 PM. Packing bags is at 1:30 PM. Distribution is 3:30 PM.



## PARISH HAPPENINGS!



**SONS OF ERIN PARADE** will begin at 1:00 PM on Saturday, March 17th. Dinner will take place at 4:00 PM at Sand Springs. Cost is \$30.00. Reservations can be made by contacting any member of the Sons of Erin. Beer, wine, and soda are included. Everyone is welcome!



**FORGET-ME-NOT GIFT TAGS** are available on the Giving Tree in the front of the church. Pink tags are the ladies and blue are for the gentlemen. All gift bags are due on the altar or in the parish office by **Sunday, April 15th**.

**PARISH BUS TRIP** to see the play "Steel Magnolias" at the Hunterdon Hills Playhouse, Hampton, NJ on Thursday, April 19th. Cost is \$76 and includes lunch. Lunch includes a choice of Yankee Pot Roast, Fried Jumbo Shrimp Platter, Lemon Pepper Cod, Stuffed Chicken Breast, Roast Turkey with Stuffing, Eggplant Rollatini, or Roasted Vegetable Kabob. Call Mary Lloyd 570-578-6720 for reservations. Money is due with reservation.



**REFRESH YOUR FAITH** - The First Annual Catholic Women's Conference of the Diocese of Scranton will take place on Saturday, June 23rd, from 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM at the Byron Complex at the University of Scranton. For more information or to register for the conference, go to [www.diocesofscranton.org/catholic-womens-conference](http://www.diocesofscranton.org/catholic-womens-conference).



**FREELAND COMMUNITY CHOIR EASTER CANTATA** - The Freeland Community Choir will be presenting the Easter Cantata, "Hallelujah, What a Savior" on April 15th at 3:00 PM at St. John's Reformed United Church of Christ, 829 Washington St. Freeland, and 7:00 PM at Conyngham United Methodist Church, 401 Main St. Conyngham. Encore performance is on April 23rd at 3:00 PM at the Faith United Church of Christ, 21 Faith Drive, Hazleton. All performances are free. Refreshments will be served after the concerts.



**YOUTH TEEN MEETING** this Sunday from 12:00 to 1:30 PM in our parish.