

✠ **MASS INTENTIONS** ✠

Sat.	3/17	4:00 PM	Angie Puzzetti 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
Mon.	3/19	7:00 PM	Mike Bobby by the Money Counters
Tue.	3/20	7:00 AM	Joseph and Mary Sweet by Their Children
Wed.	3/21	7:00 AM	NO MASS
Thur.	3/22	7:00 AM	Margie Serock by Her Sisters Anna, Helen, and Their Families
Fri.	3/23	7:00 AM	Deceased Members of the Evanochick Family by Their Family
Sat.	3/24	4:00 PM	Deceased Members of the Batcha & Ceriani Families by JoAnne and Barbara
Sun.	3/25	7:30 AM	Helen and John Kasarda by Bernadine and Robert Kisatsky
		10:30 AM	For the People



Last Weekend:

Sunday \$3,959.15; Dues \$691.00; Care & Education of Priests \$49.50; Catholic Relief \$621.25; Christmas \$25.00; Ash Wednesday \$5.00; Holy Thursday \$29.00; Good Friday \$22.05; ; Easter \$50.00; Easter Flowers \$171.00; Holy Land Sanctuary \$4.00; Church in Europe \$8.00; Poor Box \$214.08

HOLY THURSDAY is March 29th. After Mass there will be a two-hour opportunity for you to keep the Lord company on the night before His passion. Sign-up sheet is on the table in the back of the church. Will **YOU** keep the Lord company?

MEMORIAL DONATION of \$30.00 was made in Memory of Theresa Ferko DeFalko by Marge, Susan, and Bill Steward.

FORGET-ME-NOT GIFT BAGS are due on the altar or in the Parish Office by **Sun, Apr 15th.**



There will be a **Youth Teen Meeting** next Sunday from 12:00 to 1:30 PM in St. Patrick's Parish.



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.



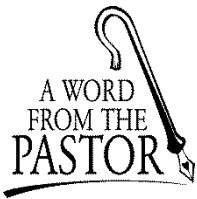
FAITH FORMATION NEWS: **March 25th** will be the Palm Sunday Procession at the 10:30 AM Mass. All students from Little Lamb Society to 7th Grade are asked to participate in the procession and mass attendance.

On April 1st, Easter Sunday, there will be **NO CLASSES**. Classes resume on April 8th. Please send the Mass Attendance Cards with the children to be checked.



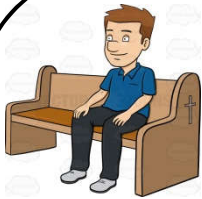
FOOD PANTRY DONATION for March is Easter candy. The next distribution will be Tuesday, March 27th. Volunteers are needed to help unload the truck at 1:00 PM. Packing bags is at 1:30 PM. Distribution is 3:30 PM.





"I hear voices." If someone says that today, they might be looked at a little strangely. In this weekend's Gospel, the people heard what some said was thunder and others said was an angel. They definitely heard something. I challenge each of us this week to LISTEN with our eyes. There is no doubt that God speaks to us. I think many look for words they can actually hear.

But God doesn't always use the words we expect. HE speaks to us also in nature and in signs. A rainbow is a perfect example. We see it and might recognize its beauty, but do we HEAR God in the rainbow. My mother used to pray novenas to St. Theresa. A sign that her novena was answered was when she saw a rose. It could be either handed to her or she might see it on TV. Her prayers were answered. LOOK for God and LISTEN, HE has something to say to YOU!



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 19th Century. Stones, bread, fish and pretzels are just a few things to contemplate on our journey through Lent as we soften our hearts!



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 will be

April 22nd 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.

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.



HAM BINGO PROFIT was \$776.25. Thanks to all who made our bingo a success!



Anniversary Year Prayer

Holy Spirit, at work in our lives
and in the lives of our ancestors,
You created the Church at Pentecost
and made it a sacrament of Jesus for the world.

We thank you for creating
the Diocese of Scranton 150 years ago
and rooting it in faith, hope and love.

We marvel at the journey you have traveled
with our bishops, laity, religious, priests and deacons.

Continue to strengthen us as one family.

Give us the clarity to focus on the things that last:

- faith in you and the Gospel,
- hope in the Resurrection
- and the love of our God.

**CELEBRATING 150 YEARS OF THE DIOCESE OF
SCRANTON: THE JOURNEY MAKES US ONE – WORLD
PREMIERE DOCUMENTARY THURSDAY, MARCH 22nd,
AT 8:00 PM ON WVIA TV.**