

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

APRIL 3, 2022

† MASS INTENTIONS †

Sat.	4/2	4:00 PM	Mr. & Mrs. John Banyas by Their Son Jack
Sun.	4/3	11:00 AM	Shirley Nitka by Her Daughter Linda Nitka-Moyer
Mon.	4/4	9:00 AM	TV Mass The People of Ukraine
		7:00 PM	Deceased Members of the Roman Family by Rose Mattavi & Sam
Tue.	4/5	7:00 AM	Mary and Paul Nemchik by Elizabeth and Rich Dudinyak
Wed.	4/6	7:00 AM	Jackie Palko by M/M Leo Thomas
Thur.	4/7	7:00 AM	David Karnatski by His Godmother Pauline
Fri.	4/8	7:00 AM	Joseph Maurice Ward by Jane and Rick Pshar
Sat.	4/9	4:00 PM	Mrs. Barbara Banyas-Patton and Mrs. Catherine Banyas Donati by Their Brother Jack
Sun.	4/10	11:00 AM	Joanie Staruch by Mary Bodnar

Last Weekend:



Sunday \$2,152.00; Ukraine \$826.00; Dues \$1,041.00; Care and Education of Priests \$65.00; Rice Bowl \$233.00; Catholic Relief \$614.00; Other \$163.00; Poor Box \$138.05



CANDLES ON THE ALTAR AND OUR SANCTUARY LAMP Are Burning This Week

In Memory of Shirley Nitka by Her Daughter Linda Nitka-Moyer



EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT - The church will be open on Holy Thursday, April 14th, from the close of the 7:00 PM mass until 10:00 PM for adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. Sign-up sheets are available in the rear of the church. Won't you consider keeping Jesus company on the eve of His Passion and Crucifixion?



HOLY WEEK MASS SCHEDULE

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH

Palm Sunday Vigil, April 9th at 4:00 PM

Palm Sunday, April 10th 7:30 AM and 11:00 AM

Holy Thursday, April 14th at 7:00 PM.

Good Friday, April 15th at 1:00 PM.

Easter Vigil, Saturday, April 16th at 8:00 PM.

Easter Sunday, April 17th at 7:30 AM and 11:00 AM.

GOOD SHEPHERD PARISH

Palm Sunday Vigil, April 9th at 6:00 PM

Palm Sunday, April 10th at 8:00 AM and 9:30 AM

Holy Thursday, April 10th at 7:00 PM.

Good Friday, April 14th at 1:00 PM.

Easter Vigil, Saturday, April 15th at 8:00 PM.

Easter Sunday, April 16th at 8:00 AM and 9:30 AM.

A MESSAGE FROM FATHER MIKE:



Double standards face us every day, but in this weekend's Gospel we see the epitome of that standard. A woman caught in adultery was brought to Jesus. Where was the man caught in the same incident? A double standard! The Pharisees tried to trap Jesus but failed to see their own culpability. A double standard!

Jesus cut through these double standards by going to the heart of the matter. To the Pharisees He said: "Let those without sin cast the first stone." To the woman caught in adultery He said: "Go and sin no more." We are all sinners. We know the right thing to do about our sinfulness. The problem is we impose double standards on ourselves by NOT going to confession.



This is the third week in a row I have written about the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Going to confession is not an easy thing to do for some: "I'm afraid"; "I don't know the Act of Contrition"; "It's been too long a time"; "I'll get yelled at by the priest"; "I'm embarrassed to tell all of my sins - they're too personal"; "I really don't have any sins"; "I say my sins directly to God." **GO TO CONFESSION!**



A VIEW FROM THE PEW, GLUE.

"Man is broken. He lives by mending. The grace of God is glue." Eugene O'Neill, playwright. Sums up Lent, doesn't it. It's the process of spiritually gluing ourselves back together.



**FORGET-ME-NOT GIFT BAGS ARE DUE
ON THE ALTAR OR IN THE PARISH OFFICE
BY THIS SUNDAY, APRIL 3RD.**



If you have recently disconnected your landline and have a new phone number, please let us know so we can update our records. Also, if your email address has changed or if you have added an email address, please let us know. You can call the parish office at 570-636-3035 or email us at ourladyfreeland@gmail.com. Thank you so much!



PARISH BUS TRIP TO SIGHT AND SOUND IN LANCASTER TO SEE DAVID - May 25th for the 11:00 AM show. Cost is \$95.00 which includes the ticket and the bus. Lunch will be on your own at Oregon Dairy. Deadline for tickets is April 9th. Payment is due when you make your reservation in order to reserve your seat for the production. For more details, contact Mary Lloyd at 570- 578-6720



EVENTS



Easter Lily

EASTER FLOWERS AND FORGET-ME-NOT BAGS will be delivered by members of the community-Service Team to the homes of our treasured elderly and shut-in parishioners during the morning of Saturday, April 9th. The flowers and bags will need to be left outside if no one is home.



FAITH FORMATION NEWS: Thank you to Father Mike, Katie Ventra, Brian Williams, and Patty Urenovich for providing our Confirmation Candidates' Retreat. We appreciate all you do. Please keep our Confirmation Candidates in your prayers.



The Confirmation classes of Immaculate Conception and Good Shepherd Parishes are sponsoring a **Children's Bingo** this **Sunday, April 3rd**, at Good Shepherd Parish. Doors open at 1:30 PM and games begin at 2:00 PM.

Please look for a notice being sent home with your children on April 10th.

CATHOLIC SOCIAL SERVICES, THEME BASKET AUCTION -Madonna Hall, Queen of Heaven Parish at Our Lady of Grace Church, 750 N. Vine St., Hazleton, PA. Doors open Sunday, April 24, at 11:30 a.m., drawing begins at 2:00 p.m. You do not need to be present to win. Preview sale Saturday, April 23, 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Light refreshments will be available for purchase Sunday.



All donations for Ukraine can be placed in the container in the back of the church. We are grateful for your generosity to those in need.



If you would like to print out a copy, fill it out, and mail it in, just go to our website www.ourladyfreeland.org and click on the bulletin tab. The survey is right there. Just print it out and make your voice heard!

We are blessed to have our Faith Formation students enjoy reading the various questions and responses in the “Dear Deacon” insert of the bulletin. Their enthusiasm for spiritual growth in their faith journey is a testament to themselves and their parents and teachers as well. Not only are they attentive but have also posed a few interesting questions.

❖ **Dear Deacon Jim,**

- *Why do we cover the Crucifix during the Lenten season? Also, why do we remove holy water during Lent?*
- *Why is it that priests cannot get married and why is it that only women can become nuns and not priests?*

❖ **Response**

These are all great questions and are very timely.

Let me first address the questions submitted about the Lenten season. We cover the Crucifix using a purple veil (the liturgical color of Lent) which is meant to heighten and become more aware of what is missing (the Risen Lord) during this liturgical Season. This is also a reminder, that we live in a veiled world. The veiled cross builds within us a longing for Easter Sunday. Remember, Christ lifts that veil through His Resurrection on Easter. Concerning holy water (a sacramental), the practice of the Church has been to remove the water from the receptacles and font after the Holy Thursday celebration, keep them empty during Good Friday and Holy Saturday (Paschal **Triduum**), and fill them with new water blessed at the Easter Vigil. One option you may see is that they are covered with purple fabric. In this way, the Lenten color signifies the season while the water in the font, **if present**, is still accessible as a reminder of baptism for the faithful.

Unfortunately, due to the COVID virus, currently, in many churches of our diocese, holy water has been removed as a safety precaution regardless of the liturgical Season. Regarding the question of *why priests cannot get married* this is a “hot” topic in our Church today. In the Latin (Roman) Catholic Church priests vow to remain celibate. This [celibacy](#) allows priests time and energy to focus completely on their flock and to be more like Jesus, who was unmarried, more faithfully. The roots of celibacy requirements go back to [Jesus](#) who was an unmarried virgin. Jesus is likened to a bridegroom whose bride is the Church. So, a Roman Catholic priest is indeed married but in a different way than what we think of. The priest, through the sacrament of Holy Orders (an outward sign that gives grace), ministers in the person of Christ.

As to the question of why only women are nuns and not priests, it must be noted that the Religious Life (such as a nun) is not a sacrament instituted by Christ as is Holy Orders. So, the priesthood is not comparable to the religious life of a say a nun. You may hear of nuns being called the “*Bride Of Christ*”. Religious life and the vows taken are a way of living based on the teachings that Jesus preached in our daily living. Religious life is open to women (nuns) and men (such as monks, etc.) alike.

Deacon Jim



DIVINE MERCY
REPARATORY SERVICE
SUNDAY, APRIL 24, 2022 AT 3:00 P.M.
OUR LADY OF THE
IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH
AT ST. ANN'S CHURCH

- * EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT
- * CONFESSION
- * RECITATION OF THE CHAPLET OF DIVINE MERCY
- * RECITATION OF THE HOLY ROSARY
- * BENEDICTION
- * MASS

“Jesus, I Trust in You.”

“Souls that make an appeal to My Mercy Delight me. To such souls I grant even more than they ask. I cannot punish even the greatest sinner if he makes an appeal to My compassion. Beg for mercy for the whole world. No soul that has called upon My mercy has ever been disappointed.”