

Saint Mary's News

Mass Schedule

Saturday, February 27th - 3:30 p.m. – Thomas Kashuba

Sunday, February 28th - 10:30 a.m. - Gerald Graczyk

Father Leo Stajkowski is now at The Villa for Priests, 1325 Prospect Avenue, Bethlehem, Pa 18018. It would be nice to send him a card and say hello!!

The Commemorating St. Mary's Roman Catholic Parish, Reading, Pa, 1888 – 2016 books are on sale for \$15.90 which includes the sales tax. Cash and checks only; no credit or debit cards. If you want a copy of the book, contact Carl Gethmann at cagethmann74@gmail.com or call 610-374-9215.

\$16,000 IN SCHOLARSHIPS In 2021, the Polish-American Board of Education of Berks County will be awarding eleven college scholarships totaling \$16,000 to Berks County high school seniors of Polish-American descent. The forms can also be downloaded from the PABEBC website at www.pabeberks.org. Completed application forms are due no later than Saturday, April 10, 2021, to the Chairperson of the Scholarship Committee Sandra Lubas Hummel, 115 Watercress Drive, Birdsboro, PA 19508-9715. Questions about the scholarship program can be directed to Ms. Hummel at 610-207-7065 or email sahummel@ptd.net. In conjunction with the PABEBC scholarship awards program, the Polish-American Heritage Association of Berks County is awarding a \$1,000 scholarship to a Berks County high school senior of Polish-American descent. The application form and guidelines for obtaining this scholarship are also available in the office of the high school guidance counselors or by contacting Sandy Lubas Hummel, the Scholarship Chair for PAHABC at sahummel@ptd.net or by calling her at 610-207-7065. For this scholarship, the students are asked to submit a project on Polish history, culture and/or traditions. The deadline for receipt of the project and all accompanying documents is March 7, 2021. Please see the scholarship guidelines for additional information.

Please join us for Stations of the Cross every Friday in Lent at 7:00 p.m. at the Church.

MARY'S WAY OF THE CROSS Please join us every Wednesday during Lent after the **8:30 a.m. Mass.**

WINTER IS COMING! St. Vincent de Paul will again be collecting and distributing items to the children of Reading. Please place new or gently used clean hats, mittens, scarves, and boots in bins in the gathering areas in the Church.



Strive for peace with everyone, and for that holiness without which no one will see the Lord. See to it that no one be deprived of the grace of God, that no bitter root spring up and cause trouble, through which many may become defiled.

Hebrews 12:14-15

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The quote above from Hebrews is not frequently cited in Lenten reflections. This Lent, however, these words especially strike me as we embrace this Season as a time of reconciliation which comes as the fruit of penance.

True repentance includes reconciliation with God, the Church, neighbor, and self. The many manifestations of division that we have seen so clearly in our Church and Nation enjoin us to the repentance that leads to true reconciliation with God, the Church, and our brothers and sisters.

It is often said that we create the times in which we live. We determine through our thoughts, words, and actions whether our individual and societal lives will be created by a preference for division or a preference for reconciliation. Through prayer, fasting, and charitable works, we can more easily see our neighbor, in the light of God's precious creation, like ourselves rather than as an adversary to vanquish by words, violence, or pre-judgments.

Finally, we cannot achieve the reconciliation desired without our faith, devotion, and reception of the Most Holy Eucharist which is the Sacrament of unity and charity. Our real presence at Mass and reception of Holy Communion, the Real Presence of Christ, is the bedrock of any true peace and reconciliation that begins within us.

May we accompany one another this Lent with prayer, fasting, good works, and reception of the Holy Eucharist to build a Church and Nation of reconciliation.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Alfred A. Schlert
Bishop of Allentown

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

Gn 9:8-15: God promises Noah that the world will never again be destroyed by a flood. God gives a sign of His covenant – His rainbow among the clouds.

1 Pt 3:18-22: Christ died once for sin. Because of sin, God destroyed the earth by water. Now Christians are saved by the water of baptism. It becomes the pledge of resurrection.

Mk 1:12-15: Jesus prayed in the desert for forty days. After John's arrest, Jesus came forth, announcing the time of fulfillment. It is the time to believe and reform.

Today's Message: Mindful of His covenant, the Lord promises never to destroy creation again by flood waters. The waters of baptism bring salvation and forgiveness through the death of Christ. After fasting forty days and being put to the test, Jesus begins His public ministry.

THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 21

CUB SCOUTS – 5 p.m. - Social Hall

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 22

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION – After 8:30 a.m. Mass until 8 p.m.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 23

RCIA - 6 p.m. – Parish Center Basement

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 26

STATIONS OF THE CROSS - 7:00 p.m. - Church

SENIOR HIGH YOUTH RETREAT – 4 - 10 p.m. – Social Hall

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 27

SENIOR HIGH YOUTH RETREAT – 8 a.m.- 10 p.m. – Social Hall

GRIEF SHARE 1-3 p.m. – Parish Center Basement

The Second Collection next weekend will be for The Claire of Assisi House. The Claire of Assisi House provides transitional residential living and important life skills training to non-violent women with a history of domestic violence, substance abuse and/or prostitution upon their release from prison. While living in a safe, sober and home-like environment, residents find the encouragement and support they need to help put the pieces of their life back together.

SECOND COLLECTION – “ALMSGIVING” - “...

When you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right is doing, so that your almsgiving may be secret.” (Ash Wednesday's Reading) - **During the Season of Lent, there will be a second collection each weekend for special needs** : February 28th - Claire of Assisi ; March 7th - St. Francis Home; March 14th - Catholic Charities; March 21st - Mary's Shelter; March 28th - Rice Bowl. Please be generous during this season of almsgiving.

MASS INTENTIONS

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 22

6:30 Deceased of the Lisinski & Myslinski Families

8:30 Timothy R. Loeper (2nd Anniversary)

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 23

6:30 Carol Ann Autrey

8:30 Andrew Napoli

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 24

6:30 Elizabeth Furyk

8:30 James McCarron

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 25

6:30 Living & Deceased Members of the Parish

8:30 Julia Calabrese

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 26

6:30 Anthony Ettaro

8:30 Jacqueline Stenavage

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 27

8:30 George D. Edmund (36th Anniversary)

4:30 Michael Reid (11th Anniversary)

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 28

7:30 Casimir Babula

9:00 Judith Gruber

10:30 Cecilia Ospina (2nd Anniversary)

12:00 Richard & Catherine Schalk

Readings for the Week of February 21, 2021

Sunday

First Sunday of Lent

Gn 9:8-15; Ps 25:4-5, 6-7, 8-9; 1 Pt 3:18-22; Mk 1:12-15

Monday

Feast of the Chair of Saint Peter the Apostle

1 Pt 5:1-4; Ps 23:1-3a, 4, 5, 6; Mt 16:13-19

Tuesday

Saint Polycarp, Bishop and Martyr

Is 55:10-11; Ps 34:4-5, 6-7, 16-17, 18-19; Mt 6:7-15

Wednesday

Jon 3:1-10; Ps 51:3-4, 12-13, 18-19;

Lk 11:29-32

Thursday

Est C:12, 14-16, 23-25; Ps 138:1-2ab, 2cde-3, 7c-8; Mt 7:7-12

Friday

Ez 18:21-28; Ps 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-7a, 7bc-8; Mt 5:20-26

Saturday

Dt 26:16-19; Ps 119:1-2, 4-5, 7-8; Mt 5:43-48

Sunday

Second Sunday of Lent

Gn 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18; Ps 116: 10, 15, 16-17, 18-19; Rom 8:31b-34; Mk 9:2-10

VIRTUAL ULTREYA

Monday, Feb 22nd @ 7:00pm

Please contact Denise Ianni for the Zoom link at:

lightbulblou@verizon.net

PRAYER REQUEST FOR PRIESTS

| | |
|----------------|-------------------------------|
| Monday 2/22 | Rev. Msgr. Thomas A. Derzack |
| Tuesday 2/23 | Rev. Msgr. Joseph A. DeSantis |
| Wednesday 2/24 | Rev. Msgr. Edward R. Domin |
| Thursday 2/25 | Rev. Bruno Dongo, A.J. |
| Friday 2/26 | Rev. Anthony M. Drouncheck |
| Saturday 2/27 | Rev. Ladislaus J. Dudek |
| Sunday 2/28 | Rev. Edward J. Essig |



The Knights of Columbus will be having a take-out Fish Fry on Friday March 5. \$12 per meal which includes fish, mac n cheese, stewed tomatoes, cole slaw, tartar and cocktail sauce. This will be take-out only. Pick-up will be in the Social Hall on Friday 3/5 between from 5PM-7PM. To place an order, email kofc14880@gmail.com or leave a message at 516.509.0190. No orders can be taken after Sunday, February 28.

SCRIP sellers needed!

We are looking for volunteers to sell SCRIP at Church for the following shifts:

2nd Sunday every month, 1st shift (7:15-10:15)

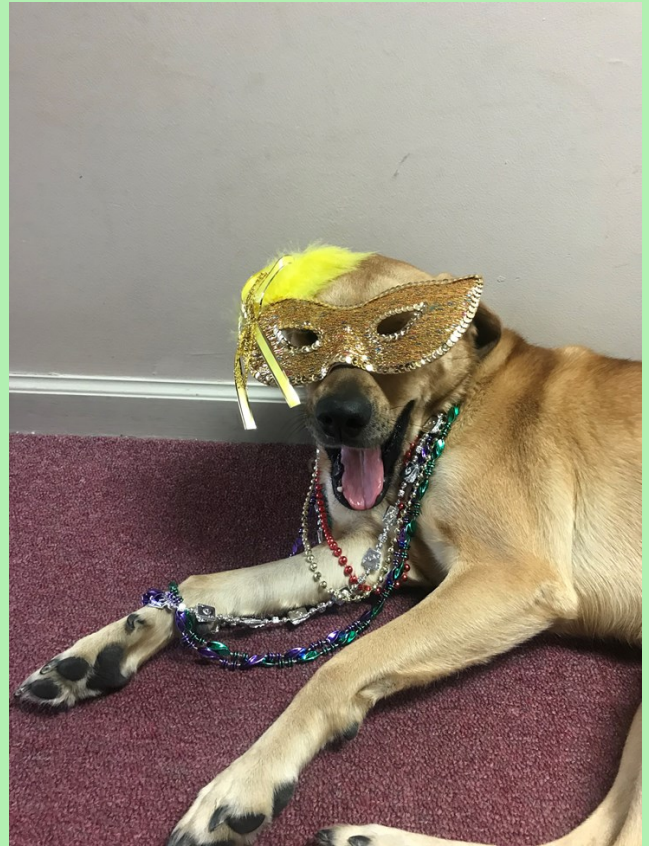
5th Sunday (this year would be [1/31](#), [5/30](#), [8/29](#) and 10/31)

Also needed: permanent sub for 3rd Sunday, 1st shift ([7:15-10:15](#)), various dates. Our regular seller has a rotating work schedule and cannot do every month)

This is a great opportunity for high school students who need service hours (must be accompanied by an adult).

Please contact Cristina Schmehl if interested or for more information at scripprogramscs@gmail.com

Ossa's Corner



Ossa is ready for Mardi Gras! Luna is sad because she is too young to go!



FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

Almighty and Everlasting God, the eternal salvation of those who believe in You, hear us on behalf of Your servants who are sick, for whom we humbly beg the help of your mercy, so that, being restored to health, they may render thanks to you in your Church. Through Christ our Lord. Amen

a time to be born... Olivia Monet Pawlik :

Please pray for our sick: Karin Acuna, Anthony Antonucci, Baby Lanzo, Marie Bassler, Becky Batastini, Melody Bechtel, Anthony Blass, Paul A. Bomba, Michele Boucher, Frank Broga, Sophia Broga, Alan Budgeon, Marvin Bush, Pat Capilo, Father Dennis Carbonaro, Nancy Cassidy, Della Chmielewski, Larry Curtin, Charles DeNaples, Arthur Dietrich Jr., George Dietrich, Roseanne Dougherty, Gina Ebright, Charles Elchlepp, Robert Flipping, Geraldine Gamby, Randy Gensemer, Ken Green, Christine Gubernot, David J. Gulati II, Wayne Hedrick, Robyn Hefferan, John Heft, Brian Heim, Patricia Herber, Dolores Hinnershitz, Tom Hinkle, Michael Hivner, Regina Italia, Winnie Kerns, Mary Kolakowski, John Kompa, Rosemarie Kovacs, David A. Lellig, David C. Lellig, Alma Lonergan, Daniel Lonergan, Charles Loose, Thaddeus (Ted) Malecki, Joanne Marnell, Charles E. Mathews, Daniel Matz, Richard Matz, Cindy McConnell, Jacob McCue, Jr., Mary Rita McFadden, John Mercadante Jr., Cathy Motznik, Charles Mountz, Ruth Mountz, Bill Nelson, Jerome Nigh, James A. Pennypacker, Sr. Stella Pingitore, Patricia Pinto, Donald Pisker, Michael Poserina, Sharon Prechtel, Chuck Rackie, Lorraine Ransom, Aneliese Robinson, Jackie Romyn, Ken Roth, John Sadlowski, David Samsel, Pat Sarro, Anne Schaeffer, Barry Scheirer, Greg Schwartz, Vincent Skimski, Joan Skoczen, Tyler Skoczen, Margaret Smith, Harvey Snyder, Veronica Stoss, Andy Strangarity, Donna Sweitzer, Kim Trois, Alan Wachowicz, Aiden Watkins, Gene Webb, Bill Wertz, Pat Wertz, Frank White, Sylvia Willey, Leo Woelkers, Bernette Wrobel, Noel Yapsuga, Susan Yapsuga, Ann Marie Zawislak, Mary Ann Zimmerman. **A Time to die: Lavina Kostzewa; Chester Garszczynski & Elizabeth Meinhold,** (mother of Nancy Miller & grandmother of Kirsten, Ryan, Morgan & Alexander Miller) **all victims of war, and the 4,100 daily abortions. Ecclesiastes 3:11**

To have someone from your family enrolled on our prayer list, please call the Parish Center. Parishioners who are sick or hospitalized, in a rehabilitation facility or at home wishing to receive the Holy Eucharist may call the Parish at 610-779-4005.

NOW THAT THE WINTER IS REALLY UPON US, WE WANT TO REMIND THE SENIOR MEMBERS OF OUR PARISH FAMILY THAT YOU SHOULD NOT ATTEMPT TO COME TO MASS ON DAYS THAT ARE STORMY, ICY OR BITTER COLD. ONE DAY OF HEROICS COULD LEAD TO MANY MONTHS IN BED RECUPERATING.

The next Blood Drive is Sunday, April 25th in the Social hall 8:15 to 1:15 pm. Please contact Miller Keystone at 800-223-6667 or email David.Sheehan@med.ge.com for an appointment.

Please note: Msgr Smith's book is still available. They are \$20.00 and payable to St. Catharine's. Due to Covid they are delayed in the printing process. We will keep you updated in the bulletin.

Save the Date!!!
St. Catharine's 19th Annual
CYO Golf Tournament
& Dinner

Friday, May 7, 2021 at
READING COUNTRY CLUB

More information to follow in
upcoming bulletins.

We pray for the Gift of Peace in the world and the safety of those working for peace through the military services, especially: Airmsn 1st Class Kevin Hodgson, Sgt. Madison Straka, First Lt. Devon Schoonover, Captain Steffen E. Lis, Sgt. Mackenzie Adame, Lance Corporal Connor A. Soja, Corporal Kadan C. Soja, Staff Sgt. Brian Perrotto, Captain Anthony Bennett, Tom Bristol, Danny Bristol, Sgt. Erin Pawlik, Commander Daniel M. Simon, Staff Sgt. Michael Porcaro, Staff Sgt. Zak Ribble, Tech. Sgt. John V. Nowotarski, III, Staff Sgt. Timothy Hinsey, Thomas Bristol, Col. Patrick Sullivan, Second Lt. Joshua Kline, Captain Kevin Madary, Sgt. First Class Andrew Spies, Lt. Col. Jeffrey Brizek, Warrant Officer Gregory Van Horn, Major Jeffrey Van Horn, Zachary Deissler, Amy & Gregory Boland, Lt. Col. Adam Sawyer, Staff Sgt. Jeremiah Sola, Lt. Cdr. Mathew Stuber, Sgt. Nathan Essig. Please contact the Parish Office with your prayer requests or email them to dsitler@comcast.net. Please call with addresses of military to Terri Mueller at 610-779-1766.

50 Plus News

Please call **Carol Buddell**, President of the 50+ Club at **610-401-0600** with any questions or concerns. You can see us on **Facebook** for additional information.

MEETINGS

DUE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC, I AM VERY SORRY TO SAY, WE WILL BE CANCELLING MONTHLY MEETINGS FOR THE NEXT COUPLE OF MONTHS. **Hopefully**, once the vaccine is given to most of us, we will be able to start having meetings in 2021, safely.

The **dues** paid by members in 2020 will carry over to **2021**. Hopefully we will be able to resume our meeting in May or June of 2021.

Any MEMBERS who have saved **Redner's tapes** for the club, would you please mail them to:
Trudy Oliver – 886 Fernleigh Place, Reading, PA 19606

2021 TRIPS

Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, we are not sure when we can safely schedule trips. Hopefully, we will be able to give you some information soon.

CONTACT: **Pat White 610-582-1437** for any information concerning the trips.

Please call **Rosalie Snyder at 610-779-6562** with the name of members who are sick or have died.

We always welcome new members and encourage guests to join us at any of our meetings. Our meetings are **NORMALLY** held at 1:00 P.M. on the first Wednesday of every month at St. Catharine's Social Hall at 4975 Boyertown Pike, Rt. 562, Reading, PA.

Senior High Youth Retreat!

We are definitely living in difficult, weird times. Our world has been challenged in ways we could have never imagined. In spite of this we would like to invite teens in grades 9-12 to our Covid-modified youth retreat this year. The theme of our retreat is "BE NOT AFRAID". We have SO many things to fear. However, if you look in the Bible, the phrase Be Not Afraid appears 365 times...that's once a day for a year! Pope John Paul II encourages us to Be Not Afraid, and we want to extend that invitation to our teens! Please join us for our Covid-friendly retreat on February 26 from 4:30pm - 10:00pm and February 27 from 8:00am - 10:00pm at the SCS Social Hall (MASKS REQUIRED). Don't be afraid...It's a decision you will not regret! Registration forms can be found in the back of the church or from the youth website www.scsyouth.weebly.com

SCAM ALERT - The Diocese of Allentown would like to remind its parishioners to be on alert, and not fall victim, to ongoing scams that are once again popping up at various parishes throughout the area. In the past months individuals have reported getting text messages and/or emails from someone claiming to be their pastor asking for various things, most often gift cards. The Diocese reminds everyone if you are ever concerned about a message that you receive, whether by text message or email, verify it before you take any action.

In the most recent instances, the bogus messages asked each recipient to purchase a gift card for a cancer victim on behalf of the pastor, but the scam can oftentimes take various forms. These requests are fake and should be considered a scam.

Please note: Msgr Domin, Father Wehr & Msgr. Treston will never text or email you asking for money, gift cards, etc.