

## **Saint Mary's News**

### **Mass Schedule**

Saturday, February 18th - 3:30 p.m. - William T. Ward (3rd Anniversary)

Sunday, February 19th - 10:30 a.m. - Regina Wrobel

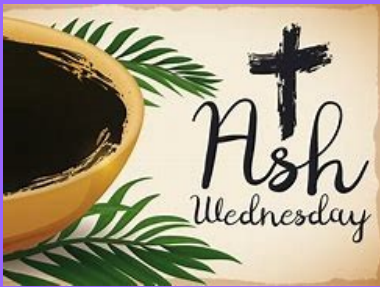
Wednesday, February 22nd - 8:00 a.m. - Dave & Rita Kasprzak

Saturday, February 25th - 3:30 p.m. - Della Chmielewski

Sunday, February 26th - 10:30 a.m. - Malgorzata Paniak

**The Lenten Pierogi Society** will begin making pierogis Monday and Tuesdays from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. We will continue to meet each Monday and Tuesday through Lent until March 28th. Pierogis will be made in the kitchen under the Church. Please use parking lot Chapel entrance. New members are always welcome.

**Pierogi Sale!** Pierogi will be on sale every Friday in Lent through and including March 31 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Pierogis will be sold in the Church basement. Please use the side entrance from the parking lot. Potato, sauerkraut and cheese pierogis will sell for \$9.00 a dozen. Haluski will be available in limited amounts for \$4.00 a cup. (weather permitting). Volunteers are needed to help sell pierogis on Fridays.



### **ASH WEDNESDAY PRAYER**

Almighty and Merciful God, Ash Wednesday marks the first day of the holy season, Lent. I ask that it be a time for reflection of myself and a time of renewal for my faith. During these forty days, let me be aware of the needs of others and of our church. By self-examination, prayer and fasting, allow me to repent for the sins that I have committed and regret any sign of contempt that I have shown towards those who differ from me. Let these weeks leading up to Good Friday and the glory of Your Resurrection show me how much You suffered for me and how much You love me. Grant that these ashes remind me of my own mortality and the realization that only through You can I receive everlasting life. In Your Name I pray. Amen.



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Each year, the Church in her wisdom proclaims the Gospel of Matthew on Ash Wednesday. At the very beginning of Lent, the Church wants us to reflect on the interior disposition that should accompany us during this sacred time of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving.

In particular, in verse six of chapter six, Matthew records Jesus' exhortation, "But when you pray, go to your inner room, close the door, and pray to your Father in secret." I propose that this one phrase can present a great challenge and a great gift to us this Lenten Season.

On one hand, to go apart from the noise and hurry of our lives and be in quiet sounds so inviting. On the other hand, to be immersed in silence with just God can seem frightening. What will I say? What will He say? Will I hear anything? What if I don't like what I hear? What if I don't know what to do with all this quiet?

Despite this trepidation, I encourage us to truly enter our "inner room." Spiritually, our inner room is an interior place in our heart that is the deepest part of our being where we speak intimately with God. This is a far different place than the frenetic world of twenty-four-hour talk, endless blogs, social media postings, tell-all books, and immediate opinion with harsh judgment. Rather, our inner room is a place of peace, tranquility, and being in the presence of God.

As we rediscover the peace of being with God in silence, we also can practice a Lent which prompts us to be more sparing in our speech as well. We can resolve to be charitable in our words, circumspect in making judgments, and humble in offering opinions. The Sacraments of Penance and the Holy Eucharist will orient us toward this goal as well as Lenten prayer, fasting, and good works.

May this Lent be a time when we quiet our hearts, reflect on God's Word in Sacred Scripture, and "pray to (our) Father in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will repay you." God bless you and all your efforts to grow closer to Him in this quiet Season of Lent.

Devotedly yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script.

Most Reverend Alfred A. Schlert  
Bishop of Allentown

## SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

**Lv 19: 1-2, 17-18:** Our inner attitude before God has a fraternal dimension. We must be holy because God is holy.

**1 Cor 3:16-23:** The Christian community is the temple of God and so is each Christian. Hence, respect is owed the community and each member.

**Mt 5:38-48:** We are called not to encourage another's injustice but to avoid vengeance. We must desire good things for others in spite of any evil they may do us.

**Today's Message:** Offer no resistance to one who persecutes you. Rather, love your neighbor as you love yourself. As the LORD is gracious and merciful, treat others in the same way, humbling yourself before the Lord.

### THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

#### MONDAY, FEBRUARY 20

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION – following the 7:15 Mass until 8:00 p.m. – Chapel

CUB SCOUTS – 6:30 p.m. – Social Hall

GUITAR GROUP PRACTICE – 7:00 p.m. - Church

CONFESSIONS – 7:00-8:00 p.m. – Chapel

BLESS THIS SPACE – 7:00 p.m. – Parish Center

#### TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 21

FATHER MILLER'S LENTEN BIBLE STUDY – 6:30 p.m. - Church

#### WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 22

PREP – 6:30 p.m. Ash Wednesday Mass - Church

#### THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 23

PRAY THE ROSARY – 6:45 a.m. – Chapel

RCIA - 6:00 p.m. – Parish Center

#### FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 24

FISH FRY – 5:00 p.m. – Social Hall

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

#### SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 25

PRAY THE ROSARY – 7:30 a.m. – Chapel

### Scripture Readings

#### For the Week of February 19, 2023

#### Sunday Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

Lv 19:1-2, 17-18; Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 8, 10, 12-13; 1 Cor 3:16-23; Mt 5:38-48

**Monday** Sir 1:1-10; Ps 93:1ab, 1cd-2, 5; Mk 9:14-29

**Tuesday** Sir 2:1-11; Ps 37:3-4, 18-19, 27-28, 39-40; Mk 9:30-37

#### Wednesday Ash Wednesday

Jl 2:12-18; Ps 51:3-4, 5-6ab, 12-13, 14 & 17; 2 Cor 5:20-6:2; Mt 6:1-6, 16-18

**Thursday** Dt 30:15-20; Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 & 6; Lk 9:22-25

**Friday** Is 58:1-9a; Ps 51:3-4, 5-6ab, 18-19; Mt 9:14-15

**Saturday** Is 58:9b-14; Ps 86:1-2, 3-4, 5-6; Lk 5:27-32

#### Sunday First Sunday of Lent

Gn 2:7-9; 3:1-7; Ps 51:3-4, 5-6, 12-13, 17; Rom 5:12-19 or Rom 5:12, 17-19; Mt 4:1-11

### MASS INTENTIONS

FOR THE WEEK



#### SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 18

4:30 Frank Mierzewski

#### SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 19

7:30 Deceased of the Davis & Miller Families

9:30 Elias Cuesta (34<sup>th</sup> Anniversary)

11:30 Jay Yohn

#### MONDAY, FEBRUARY 20

7:15 Deceased of the Morse & Siciliano Families

#### TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 21

7:15 Catherine Krick

#### WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 22

7:15 Timothy R. Loeper (4<sup>th</sup> Anniversary) (Church)

12:00 noon Vincenzo Chiaro (Church)

6:30 p.m. Fiorino Grande (Church)

#### THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 23

7:15 James McCarron

#### FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 24

7:15 Francis & Mildred Itle

#### SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 25

8:00 Michael Casolaro

4:30 Theodore Borek

#### SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 26

7:30 Deceased Members of the Kulak, Nardo, Meyers & Yourkavitch Families

9:30 Charles Okpokwu

11:30 Chiara Rugolo (10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary)



### Sanctuary Candle Memorials For the week of February 19th

The Sanctuary Candle  
will burn In  
Loving Memory of

St. Catharine's Church - Poor Souls In Purgatory

Saint Catharine's Chapel - Deceased Members of the Kompa Family

St. Mary's - Deceased Members of the Parish

### PRAYER REQUEST FOR PRIESTS

Monday 2/20	Rev. Eugene P. Ritz
Tuesday 2/21	Rev. Philip F. Rodgers
Wednesday 2/22	Rev. Juan E. Rodriguez
Thursday 2/23	Rev. Paul L. Rothermel
Friday 2/24	Rev. Msgr. Edward R. Sacks
Saturday 2/25	Rev. Msgr. Walter T. Scheaffer

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

**Parish Nurse News** -Healthy weight begins with simple changes for you and your child. Avoid soda and sugary drinks-those contain more than an entire day's worth of sugar. First step: keep those drinks out of the house. (HealthyAdvice.com) Add lemon or lime to water and start a new routine! Delicious and nutritious!

The Saint Catharine of Siena School Advisory Board is looking for parishioners (21 and older) willing to serve a 3 year term beginning in May 2023. If you are looking for a way to give back and are passionate about Catholic Education, we encourage you to apply. Please email Mrs. Marcella Kraycik ([mkraycik@scsreading.org](mailto:mkraycik@scsreading.org)) for an application. Questions about this ministry? Email Mrs. Julianne Smith ([juliannejs@gmail.com](mailto:juliannejs@gmail.com)). Thank you for considering this ministry!

**AVCP Antietam Valley Community Partnership** - 10<sup>th</sup> annual community dinner. Proceeds from this event provide partial scholarships to 6 local high school seniors from Antietam, Exeter, and Berks Catholic. When: Sunday March 5<sup>th</sup> 11-2, Antietam High School, Chili, Golumpki, or Kielbasa/Haluski dinners \$13 each. Family size dinners (feeds 4) \$45 each. Please contact Larry for tickets 610 779 6973.

*We pray for the Gift of Peace in the world and the safety of those working for peace through the military services, especially: Cpl. Bruce Bogertey, SPC, Alex Heintz, Captain Chelsea Pellicano, Airman Ethan Kosmoski, Ensign Nicholas Tomczyk, Captain Steffan Lis, MD, SPC, Dylan Einfalt, Airman 1st Class Kevin Hodgson, Sgt. Madison Straka, First Lt. Devon Schoonover, Sgt. Mackenzie Adame, Lance Corporal Connor A. 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, 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](mailto:dsitler@comcast.net).*

## KNIGHTLY NEWS & EVENTS



**LENTEN FISH FRYs** - The Knights will be hosting the Lenten Fish Frys at the Social Hall from 5-7 PM on Friday February 24<sup>th</sup>, (**JAZZ NIGHT**- enjoy listening to some Jazz while you enjoy your meal), followed by Fish Frys on March 24<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup>.

Over the years, we have always tried to maintain a reasonable price along with providing the freshest and best quality product and service we can bring to our St. Catharine's & St. Mary's Church community. Fortunately, we have control over the quality and service, but unfortunately, we can only do so much to control the price. We have fallen victim to significant price increases for fish, ingredients and all supplies used and must raise our prices this year. As a result, the cost will be \$18 per meal. We will be providing the exact same product(s) for the meal you have become accustomed to.

One additional important change to note, [we will be going back to requiring pre-orders for the Friday meals](#) to better control our Council's cost. Since we will be purchasing product based on orders to limit our cost and to maintain fresh product, there will be very little to no availability for us to service walk-in patrons this year. Our apologies.

The Knights sincerely hope you understand as this was a difficult decision for us because it directly impacts our much appreciated loyal patrons to these events.

**NEW LENTEN EVENT - CRAB CAKE DINNER** - Father Miller and the Knights will be hosting a Crab Cake dinner on Friday, March 10<sup>th</sup> from 5-7 PM. The dinner will include the Knights' typical Fish Fry side dishes **but** with crab cakes. The \$20 meal will include crab cakes, stewed tomatoes, mac & cheese, coleslaw, rolls, a dessert, and drinks (beer & wine available for a small contribution if you so choose). The profit from this event will be used to help offset some of the cost for Church projects. **This event will also be a pre-order only event as discussed above.**

**TO PLACE AN ORDER, FOR EAT IN OR TAKE OUT, UTILIZE THE FOLLOWING CONTACTS BY THE MONDAY PRECEDING THE EVENT DATE.** For the tech savvy individuals, you can use the QR Code shown below or please feel free to do it the old-fashioned way, by directly contacting through phone or email to place your order. **Payment will be expected at the entrance of the event being attended.**

Tom Goerner at (484) 288-0174 or email: [tcantiquers@verizon.net](mailto:tcantiquers@verizon.net)

Tom Trainer at (484) 333-4312 or email at

[ThomasA.Trainer@gmail.com](mailto:ThomasA.Trainer@gmail.com)

EMAIL the Knights: [kofc14880@gmail.com](mailto:kofc14880@gmail.com)

**OR USE THE QR Code Below to submit your order**



*Thanks for your continued support!*

### **February 22nd – Saint Catharine & Saint Mary's Ash Wednesday Mass Schedule**

**All Masses will be held at the Church on Boyertown Pike except the 8:00 a.m. Mass at St. Mary's 7:15 a.m.**

**\*\*8:00 a.m. - Saint Mary's\*\***

**12:00 noon**

**6:30 p.m.**



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... Recently Baptized: Damon Diefenderfer, Cecilia Mullen & Emma Strecker**

**Please pray for our sick:** Karin Acuna, Anthony Antonucci, Elizabeth Ashton, Baby Lanzo, Jo Ann Bechtel, Melody Bechtel, Gene Bellus, Michele Boucher, Joanne Bowman, Katie Briggs, Frank Broga, Sophia Broga, Paul Brooke, Renee Brzostek Marvin Bush, Pauline Cappel, Richard Cunnius, Larry Curtin, Cyril Danko, Tamara Danko, George Dietrich, Janet Dodge, Roseanne Dougherty, Andy Dykie, Martin Eisenhower, Charles Elchlepp, Robert Flipping, Tom Franek, Chris Fry, Connie Fry, Geraldine Gamby, Michael Gantert, Todd Gladfelter, Theresa Grabowski, Lydia Griffith, David J. Gulati II, Al Heck, Mary & Wayne Hedrick, Robyn Hefferan, John Heft, Theresa Heltzinger, Patricia Herber, Carol Hess, Curtis S. Hill, Jesse Hill, Michael Hivner, Margaret Iuso, Nikki Lyn Kells, Rev. David Kohut, OFM, John Kompa, Rosemarie Kovacs, Dorothy Kulak, Walter LaSota, Darryl Larish, William Lawson, Marniece Lepore, Alma Lonergan, Daniel Lonergan, Jane Lubas, Joan Lubas, Rosemary Ludwig, Maryann Marino, Joanne Marnell, Angela Marroccoli, Daniel Matz, Cindy McConnell, Peggy McConnell, Mary Rita McFadden, Katherine Miceli, Lannie Milillo, Cynthia Mitchell, Carol Moore, Ruth Mountz, Robert Moyer, Jerome Nigh, Angela Biscanti Ondik, Frank Pingitore, Patricia Pinto, Donald Pisker, Michael Poserina, Chuck Rackie, Lorraine Ransom, Peggy Reid, David Samsel, Barbara Santoro, Anne Schaeffer, Earl Sheetz, Carolyn Schott, Gabbie Sierra, Vincent Skimski, Joan Skoczen, Tyler Skoczen, Henry and Mary Jane Skowron, Barbara Spatz, Andy Strangarity, Earl Suchomelly, Jan Tomalis, Kimberly Trigstead, Milton Vicente, Betty Vilardo, Mark Walter, Frank White, Noel Yapsuga, Susan Yapsuga, Ann Marie Zawislak, John Ziemba, Mollie Ziemba, Dan Zielinski, Mary Ann Zimmerman **A Time to die:** **Kloma Ulrich**, (mother of Bernette Wrobel); **Emil Rekasi, Jr.** (Husband of Lyndia Rekasi) & **Robert Schock**, (husband of Barbara Schock) & 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.**



**St. Catharine's of Siena is holding a blood drive on Sunday, March 26.** Please call Dave Gibney at [484.332.1624](tel:484.332.1624), or schedule online at [https://donor.giveapint.org/donor/schedules/drive\\_schedule/85668](https://donor.giveapint.org/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/85668)

. Anyone who is in good health, is 16 years of age or older, and weighs 110 pounds or more, may donate whole blood every 56 days. (16-year old donors require parental consent). **Did you know:** 40% of the US population is eligible to donate – but only 5% do on a yearly basis. • Statistics show that 25% or more of us will require blood at least once in our lifetime. • Every 2 seconds, someone in the US requires a blood transfusion. • It only takes about 45 minutes of your time to save a life. • Miller-Keystone Blood Center needs to see approximately 450 donors every day to supply the 27 hospitals served by the blood center.

**The Black and Indian Mission Collection exists to help local African American and Native American Diocesan Communities throughout the United States spread the Good News of Jesus Christ and respond to real and pressing needs on the ground.**

**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 26th - Black & Indian Missions; March 5th, Clare of Assisi; March 12th - St. Francis Home; March 19th - Catholic Charities; March 26th - Earthquake Relief for Turkey & Syria; April 2nd - Rice Bowl. Please be generous during this season of almsgiving.



### OUR LENTEN OBLIGATION

Church law considers every Friday and the season of Lent as penitential days and times. The practice of penance is part of our faith and Christian life. When we do penance, we imitate Jesus, who himself recommended it as necessary to His Followers, and gave them the example of His prayer and fasting.

The Lenten obligation, as determined for Catholics in the United States by our bishops, requires that fasting be observed on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. The law of abstinence is to be observed on Ash Wednesday and all the Fridays of Lent.

**Who must fast?** - All Catholics who are between the ages of 18 and 59. The obligation ceases when one begins his/her 60<sup>th</sup> year on his/her 59<sup>th</sup> birthday.

**Who must abstain?** - All Catholics who are 14 years and older.

**What does fasting mean?** - The observance of fasting means that those obliged may take only one full meal on the day of the fast. Two lighter meals (not equal to another full meal) may be taken to maintain strength according to one's needs.

**What does abstinence mean?** - The law of abstinence forbids the eating of meat. Voluntary abstinence refers to refraining from lawful pleasures in a spirit of penance.

**Can anyone be dispensed or excused from fast and/ or abstinence?** - Individuals for a just cause may be dispensed by their pastor or by a priest with the faculty to do so. In our Diocese all priests may dispense individuals who are committed to their pastoral care. Those who are ill or have a similar serious reason are excused from the observance of fast and abstinence. Catholics are reminded that they should not lightly excuse themselves from this obligation.

**Are there other obligations which we should fulfill?** - Catholics are obliged to fulfill what has been called their "Easter Duty." They are required to receive Holy Communion during Easter time. In the United States this obligation can be fulfilled from the First Sunday of Lent until Trinity Sunday (March 26<sup>th</sup> to June 4<sup>th</sup>) Those conscious of serious sin are reminded of the obligation to confess their sins once a year. **Catholics are encouraged to make Lent a time of more intense prayer and to practice almsgiving and other works of charity.**



### TRADITIONAL CHOIR NEWS

**SINGERS, WE WANT YOU!** We invite everyone (especially Bass & Tenor voices) interested in finding out about the Traditional Choir music ministry at the 11:30am Masses, to please visit the information table in the Gathering Space. **Seasonal participation is especially welcomed for the Lenten and Easter Seasons.** NOTE: **Rehearsals are Sunday mornings before Mass** (no week nights, except for special occasions). **THANKS FOR YOUR INTEREST & SUPPORT!** Please contact David Kostival, [dkostival@comcast.net](mailto:dkostival@comcast.net) OR Phyllis Rieger, [phyrieger@gmail.com](mailto:phyrieger@gmail.com) 484-509-6257.

### 50 Plus News

Please call, newly elected President, Kathleen Zagar, for any 50+ club inquiries. Her phone number is 610-698-3289. You can see us on Facebook for additional information. **Anyone attending the 50+ meeting will be asked to show proof of Covid Vaccination. If an attendee does not have proof of vaccination, he/she will be asked to wear a mask.**

#### **Meetings**

**Wednesday, March 1, 2023:** Feel free to bring an appetizer to share with members, play bingo. Dessert and drinks will also be served.

**Wednesday, April 5, 2023,** Everybody's Birthday Celebration at Victor Emmanuel's. Jeff Krick, Jr., an Elvis impersonator, will be providing entertainment. Reservations required, members \$26 and non-members, \$28. For more information, please call, Janina Ankielewicz at 215-644-7396.

#### **Trips for 2023**

**April 12, 2023,** Wednesday, Kreider dairy farms tour with a farm to table experience at Mount Hope, \$85. Kreider dairy farm tour, reservation deadline, March 8, 2023

**May 17, 2023,** Wednesday, Sight and Sound, "Moses" lunch at Cracker Barrel on your own, \$110. Sight and Sound, "Moses", reservation deadline, March 16, 2023

**June 22, 2023,** Thursday, Pines Dinner Theater, "Route 66", \$100. Pines dinner, theater, reservation deadline, May 31, 2023

**July 14th, 2023**(Friday), Riverboat 'all you can eat crab feast' Cruise, Hurluck, MD \$135. River boat/crab fest, reservation date May 14, 2023

**August 16, 2023,** Wednesday, Atlantic City, New Jersey Airshow, \$60

**September 19-23,** Niagara Falls \$895 per person for double occupancy, \$1095 for single occupancy.

**October 18, 2023,** Wednesday, Penn's, Peak, "Dolly, and Kenny Tribute", \$95

**November 15, 2023,** Wednesday, "Holidays at Mount Hope", \$95

Please call **Pat White** at 610 582 1437 for information about any of the trips.

Please call **Kathleen Zagar** at 610-698-3289 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 held at 1:00 PM on the first Wednesday of most months at Saint Catharine's Social Hall. There will be no meetings during the special events' months of April, August, and December.**



The Knights of Columbus will be hosting a Fraternal Benefits night at St. Catharine of Siena parish (4975 Boyertown Pike Reading PA 19606) on March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023.

The seminar will be held from 7pm-8pm.

Light refreshments will be offered.

Open to ANYONE including current Knights, their families, and anyone who wishes to learn what Benefits the Knights have to offer:

- Recent changes to IRA's and the SECURE ACT
  - Long Term Care and Estate Planning
  - Possible Ways to avoid inheritance tax
- Charitable gifting

RSVP by Sunday, Feb 26<sup>th</sup> to Thomas McKeon 484-343-8711 or [Thomas.McKeon@KofC.Org](mailto:Thomas.McKeon@KofC.Org)