

Saint Mary's

Saint Catharine of Siena Parish



250 S. 12th Street
Reading, PA 19602

ST. MARY'S REGULAR MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday: 3:30 p.m.
Sunday : 10:30 a.m.

Sacraments

Reconciliation: Saturday, 2:45 -3:15 p.m. in the Church. Otherwise, by appointment only

Pastoral Staff

Rev. Brian M. Miller, M.A., Pastor
Rev. Matthew J. Kuna, Parochial Vicar
Deacon Craig Fry
Deacon John Stapleton
Deacon Gregory Schneider
Mrs. Marcella Kraycik, Principal
Rev. Msgr. Joseph P. T. Smith, Pastor Emeritus

Diocesan Victim Assistance Coordinator:

Ms. Wendy S. Krisak, MA, NCC, LPC
Direct Line: (800) 791-9209
Office of Safe Environment: Pamela J. Russo, M.S.W, M.S.
Secretary, Youth Protection and Catholic Human Services

P.O. Box F, Allentown, PA 18105-1538
610-871-5200 ext. 2204
prusso@allentowndiocese.org



4975 Boyertown Pike
Reading, PA 19606

ST. CATHARINE'S REGULAR MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday: 8:00 a.m. - Chapel
Saturday: 4:30 p.m. - Church
Sunday: 7:30, 9:30 & 11:30 - Church
Daily: Monday - Friday - 7:15 a.m. - Chapel
8:30 a.m. School Mass (Friday)

Sacraments Reconciliation: Saturday - 3:30 - 4:15 p.m. - in the Church otherwise, by appointment only.

PARISH CENTER:

2427 Perkiomen Avenue
Phone: 610-779-4005, FAX: 610-779-0859
Parish Website: www.scsreading.org
Parish Email: saintcatharineofreading@gmail.com

ST. CATHARINE'S SCHOOL:

2330 Perkiomen Avenue
Phone: 610-779-5810 • www.scsreading.org

PREP OFFICE:

2330 Perkiomen Avenue
Phone: 610-779-8535

PRE-SCHOOL:

2330 Perkiomen Avenue
Phone: 610-779-5810

Please mail all your correspondence to the Parish Center,
2427 Perkiomen Ave., Reading, PA 19606

St. Catharine of Siena Parish Mission Statement

We, the people of St. Catharine of Siena Parish, as brothers and sisters in Christ guided by the Father, Son and Holy Spirit and inspired by the works of our patron saint proclaim a desire to grow in our Roman Catholic faith through holiness and a willingness to serve the members of our parish family and community.

SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Saint Mary's News

Saturday, February 10th - 3:30 p.m. - Max Tomczyk
Sunday, February 11th - 10:30 a.m. - Dorothy A. LaSota (6th Anniversary)
Wednesday, February 14th - 8:00 a.m. - Living & Deceased Members of the Parish
Saturday, February 17th - 3:30 p.m. - Linda Ziegler - (Good Health)
Sunday, February 18th - 10:30 a.m. - Ralph & Stella Pingitore

PIEROGI SALE- Pierogi will be on sale every Friday in Lent through and including March 22nd 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 possibly cheese pierogis will sell for \$10.00 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.

A LENTEN DAY OF PRAYER AND REFLECTION

Mariawald Renewal Center – Saturday, March 9, 2024 –
9:00AM-3:00PM

THEME: “**CRUCIFIED KING**”

FACILITATOR: Fr. Brian Miller, M.Div., M.A., pastor of St. Catherine of Siena Church, Reading, PA.

To register, call 610-777-0135 or email
mariawaldcenter@gmail.com
Register by March 5, 2024.

Cost: \$ 40.00, Lunch Included

Mariawald Renewal Center,
1094 Welsh Road, Reading, PA 19607

February 14th – 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.

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As we journey through the sacred seasons of our faith, none is more rigorous than the Holy Season of Lent. During this time, the Church urges us to prayer, fasting, and almsgiving.

In my Lenten Letter this year, I would like to reflect with you on the practice of *fasting*. Already by the second century, fasting was integrated into the lifestyle of Christians. Fasting is not merely an ancient ritual but a timeless discipline that deepens our spiritual relationship with God.

In this act of self-denial, we emulate Christ's sacrifice and cultivate virtues such as humility and temperance. Fasting redirects our focus from worldly desires to the eternal truths of our faith, fostering a spirit of prayer, holiness, and charity.

In the New Testament, Jesus fasts forty days and nights in the desert, modeling for us the forty-day period of Lent. When Jesus' disciples were disappointed because they could not cast out a certain evil spirit, He told them that “only prayer and fasting can cast this kind out, nothing else can.” (Mark 9:29).

Because the very life and teaching of Our Lord exemplify the practice of fasting, we can conclude that a spirit of denial is integral to the life of a Christian and the overcoming of the Evil One. Saint Athanasius wrote, “Devils take great delight in fullness and drunkenness, and bodily comfort. Fasting possesses great power and it works glorious things. To fast is to banquet with angels.”

When we fast, we deny ourselves legitimate things so that we can master our cravings instead of being driven by them. The spiritual purpose of fasting should not be linked to the desire — which can be commendable for health reasons — to lose weight. Spiritually, fasting is linked to a desire for penance which in turn focuses our attention more clearly on prayer and the overcoming of sin.

Fasting is also a path of solidarity with the less fortunate, which leads to the Lenten practice of almsgiving/good works. It is a reminder of the hunger for justice
2024 Lenten Pastoral Letter
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in our world, especially in our time of disrespect for human life, of growing marginalization between people, and of multi-national conflicts. Let us, then, courageously approach the discipline of fasting with sincerity, seeking spiritual renewal and a closer union with the suffering Christ.

During this Lenten season, may we embrace fasting not as a burden, but as a transformative spiritual journey. By willingly surrendering certain comforts, we can open our hearts to God's grace and allow His love to fill the void left by material indulgence.

May God's grace guide us through this Holy Season of fasting, leading us to a richer, more profound experience of His love and mercy as we “banquet with Angels” in preparation for a joyous Easter.

Devotedly yours in Christ,
✠ Most Reverend Alfred A. Schlert
Bishop of Allentown

Lv 13:1-2, 44-46: The Lord instructs Moses and Aaron on the legal prescriptions that are to be followed by those who have leprosy.

1 Cor 10:31-1 -1: Paul directs that whatever is done should be for the glory of God. Since he is acting in imitation of Christ, the people should follow his example.

Mk 1:40-45: Upon request, Jesus cured a leper, reminding him to follow the directions of the Mosaic law and to tell no one. Since the cured leper spread the news of his cure, Jesus could no longer openly enter a town.

Today's Message: Jesus manifests the powerful, healing love of God by curing the leper who was forced to live under severe restrictions by the Jewish legislation. He turned to Jesus in his need and was filled with joy. We are called to imitate the healing and compassionate Jesus.

THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 11

HOSPITALITY SUNDAY – following the 7:30 a.m. & 9:30 a.m.

Masses

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 12

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

CONFESSIONS – 7:00-8:00 p.m. - Chapel

CUB SCOUTS MEETING – 6:30 p.m. - Social Hall

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

LIFE AFTER LOSS – 7:00 p.m. – Parish Center

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 14

PREP – Mass -6:30 p.m.- Church

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 15

PRAY THE ROSARY – 6:45 a.m. – Chapel

SIENA STITCHERS – 10:00 a.m. - Church

RCIA – 6:00-7:30 p.m. – Parish Center

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 16

FISH FRY – 5:00-7:00 p.m. – Social Hall

AHG – 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. -School

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 17

PRAY THE ROSARY – 7:30 a.m. – Chapel

READING ULTREYA – 9:30 a.m. -Noon – Social Hall

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 18

SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP – 6:30-8:30 p.m.

St Benedict Prime Timers Tour - In Conjunction with White Star Tours

ARK ENCOUNTER & CREATION MUSEUM – Williamstown, KY

June 17-20, 2024 ~ 4 Days – 3 Nights

\$745.00 per person - Double Occupancy

\$930.00 Single Occupancy, \$50 Deposit to hold reservation –

Balance Due April 1, 2024

For the week of February 11th
The Sanctuary Candle
will burn in
Loving Memory of

St. Catharine's Church - Barbara Ianni

St. Catharine's Chapel - Diane & Richard Cibroski

St. Mary's - Linda Ziegler -Good Health

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 10

8:00 Antonio Casas Vicente

4:30 Elias Cuesta (35th Anniversary)

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 11

7:30 Kathleen Fillman

9:30 Joseph & Anna Puwalski

11:30 Myrna (Graver) Taylor

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 12

7:15 Irene Didyoung

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 13

7:15 Connie Fry

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 14

7:15 Clare Ritz

12:00 noon Mark Kuna

6:30 p.m. Jim McGinnis (4th Anniversary)

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 15

7:15 Living & Deceased Members of the Parish

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 16

7:15 Joseph Calabrese

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 17

8:00 Manuel James Pinto

4:30 John Price / Lucy Price (Hughes)

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 18

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

Youravitch Families

9:30 Vito Ratti

11:30 Chiara Rugolo (11th Anniversary)

Scripture Readings

For the Week of February 11, 2024

Sunday

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Lv 13:1-2; 44-46; Ps 32:1-2, 5, 11; 1 Cor 10:31—11:1; Mk 1:40-45

Monday

Jas 1:1-11; Ps 119:67, 68, 71, 72, 75, 76; Mk 8:11-13

Tuesday

Jas 1:12-18; Ps 94:12-13a, 14-15, 18-19; Mk 8:14-21

Wednesday

Ash Wednesday

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

Thursday

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

Friday

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

Saturday

Memorial of the Seven Founders of the Order of Servites, Religious

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

Sunday

First Sunday of Lent

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

[Kennedy House](#). Want to volunteer and help those struggling? It is St. Catharine's turn to run the [Kennedy House](#) in Reading. We would love to have you come and help out either [Saturday, February 17th and or Sunday, February 18th](#) or both days! Times are from 9:30-2 each day. Please call, text, or email if you can help - Sara Miller 484-459-0270 or sk1699@hotmail.com. Hope to see you there. Also, if you are unable to help but would be willing to [donate](#) food or other supplies we would need, please contact me as well.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0848ACA823A4FA7-47110214-kennedy>

PRAYER REQUEST FOR PRIESTS

Monday 2/12	Rev. Brendon M. Laroche
Tuesday 2/13	Rev. Keith R. Laskowski
Wednesday 2/14	Rev. William J. Linkchorst
Thursday 2/15	Rev. John J. Little
Friday 2/16	Rev. David J. Loeper
Saturday 2/17	Rev. David Lopez, F.S.S.P.

Catholic Trivia - Question: Which Saint was killed by the Roman Emperor Claudius for secretly marrying young couples?

- A. Saint Valentine
- B. Saint Anthony of Padua
- C. Saint Thomas More
- D. Saint Ignatius of Antioch

Answer on page 6

50 Plus News

Please call, President Kathleen Zagar for any 50 Plus Club inquiries. Her phone number is 610 698-3289. You can see us on Facebook for additional information.

Meetings

March 6, 2024: Speaker Attorney Scott Hoh will discuss Estate Planning. Coffee, tea, water, and cake will be served.

April 3, 2024: "Everybody's Birthday Party" at Victor Emmanuel's. Our 50+ Member Price is \$27.00 and \$29.00 for nonmembers. Please call Janina at 215-644-7396 for more information, as attendance is "By Reservation Only" Everybody's Birthday Flyers will be available at the 50 +meeting February 7, 2024. Reservations and cancellation must be received no later than March 20, 2024

Trips

April 18-21: Parade of Nations in Virginia, International Tattoo, \$770 per person, double occupancy (The Virginia International Tattoo, incorporates groups from around the world, including acrobats, choral groups, and precision military drill teams.) Trip reservations /Down payment deposits are still being taken by Pat White. \$200 per person Checks should be made payable to St Catharine's 50 Plus Club, final payment is due February 11, 2024.

May 15, 2024: "Daniel", Sight and Sound, \$120 per person. Meals on your own at Cracker Barrel.

June 12, 2024: Our Mystery Trip, \$145 per person

July 17, 2024: Murder Mystery at Mount Hope, \$80 per person

August, 2024: Potomac Eagle Train Trip with a three course meal, more information to follow.

Please call Pat White at 610-582-1437 or Bev Bard at 610-763-5654. For trip information.

Please call Maria Bunch at 610-914-7005 with the names of members who are sick or who have died.



KNIGHTLY NEWS & EVENTS



LENTEN FISH FRYS - The Knights will be hosting the Lenten Fish Frys at the Social Hall from 5-7 PM on the following Fridays

February 16 - Live Music While You Dine - Keyboard & Guitar
 March 15th - Live Jazz While You Dine
 March 22nd

Last year we fell victim to a price increase as a result of increased costs for the fresh fish, ingredients for stewed tomatoes, mac n' cheese, cole slaw. and supplies. We are pleased to announce this year we can hold our price at last year's price of \$18 per dinner.

One additional important change to note, **EXCEPT FOR** the crab cake dinner discussed below, the Fish Frys will be 100 % walk-ins. **No pre-orders** will be taken. As a result, the event will be operating on a first come, first serve basis until we run out.

CRAB CAKE DINNER - **Father Miller and the SCS Knights will be hosting a Crab Cake dinner on Friday, March 1st 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).

This event will be a pre-order only event as discussed above and the contact info for orders will be released in the bulletin in February.

*Looking forward to seeing you all again this year!
 The SCS Knights thank you for your continued support !*

American Heritage Girls (AHG) Troop 1111 would like to thank Deacon John Stapleton for leading the girls in a very interesting & informative Q&A about sacred objects that are used during Mass and for leading the girls in Adoration, as they worked on their "Eucharistic Revival" Patch last Saturday morning. We appreciate all, you did for us, and regularly do for our parish family.

Parish Nurse News - February heart month: Move a little more, eat a little less, stress alot less, avoid sitting for long periods-get up and stretch, and avoid black licorice which elevates blood pressure. (Cleveland Clinic Health Essentials, Jan.2022) Taking care of your pet, helping others, time with someone who experienced the death of a loved one, and lifting someone's spirits gifts both of you!

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:

Please pray for our sick & soldiers in harm's way: Karin Acuna, Richard Albel, Anthony Antonucci, Tara Arnold, Elizabeth Ashton, Baby Lanzo, Mike Bailey, Maura Barrasso, Melody Bechtel, Gene Bellus, Dolores Bertoti, Jason Beshore, Jodi Bixler, Michele Boucher, Joanne Bowman, Katie Briggs, Bruce Brandfon, Frank Broga, Sophia Broga, Paul Brooke, Renee Brzostek, Connie Burkhart, Bill Bunch, Marvin Bush, Pauline Cappel, Richard Cunnius, Larry Curtin, Cyril Danko, Tamara Danko, Jennifer & Thomas Devlin, George Dietrich, Janet Dodge, Roseanne Dougherty, Andy Dykie, Gina Ebright, Dr. Elizabeth Edmunds, Charles Elchlepp, Joe Essig, Robert Flipping, Chris Fry, Geraldine Gamby, Michael Gantert, Todd Gladfelter, Theresa Grabowski, David J. Gulati II, Doris Harner, Al Heck, Mary & Wayne Hedrick, Robyn Hefferan, Carol Heft, Theresa Heltzinger, Patricia Herber, Curtis S. Hill, Jesse Hill, Roger Hilton, James Hett, Michael Hivner, Carolyn Hoffman, Chuck Holt, Margaret Iuso, Katelynn Solecki Kajunski, Julia Karpati, Nikki Lyn Kells, Krissy Kelly, Rev. David Kohut, OFM, John Kompa, Deb Kothgasser, Rosemarie Kovacs, Doug Kroener, Dorothy Kulak, Walter LaSota, Darryl Larish, William Lawson, Pat Lenich, Alma Lonergan, Jane Lubas, Joan Lubas, Rosemary Ludwig, Aleigha Manderbach, Maryann Marino, Angela Marroccoli, Greg & Kevin Masters, Daniel Matz, Cindy McConnell, Peggy McConnell, Mary Rita McFadden, Tim McNeil, Katherine Miceli, Lannie Milillo, Cynthia Mitchell, Jerome Nigh, Maddie Nordhoy, Angela Biscanti Ondik, Peggy Pacharis, Frank Pingitore, Donald Pisker, Michael Poserina, Chuck Rackie, Lorraine Ransom, Nada Rathkey, Rich Readinger, Peggy Reid, Virginia Rivera, Aneliese & Raven Robinson, David Samsel, Barbara Santoro, Anne Schaeffer, Earl Sheetz, Gabbie Sierra, Vincent Skimski, Joan Skoczen, Tyler Skoczen, Anne Smith, Louise Souders, Barbara Spatz, Andy Strangarity, Earl Suchomelly, Kimberly Trigstead, Jeff Trojanowski, Maureen Truckly, Rex Voelker, Chad Vogel, Alexandra Wachowicz, Dave Walter, Mark Walter, Pam Weber, Frank White, Noel Yapsuga, Kathleen Zagar, Ann Marie Zawislak, Dan Zielinski, John Ziemba, Mollie Ziemba, Mary Ann Zimmerman **A Time to die: Mary Jane Skowron; Paul Schott; Judith Koch;** (husband of Dick Koch); **Anthony Iezzi,** (father of Kathy Formando & grandfather of Dominic & Luca Formando) & 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 10th. 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. 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.

We pray for the Gift of Peace in the world and the safety of those working for peace through the military services, especially: Petty Officer Matthew J. Dobroskey, Jr., Cpl. Bruce Bogertey, SPC, Alex Heintz, Captain Chelsea Pellicano, Airman Ethan Kosmoski, LTJG 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, Commander Daniel M. Simon, Staff Sgt. Michael Porcaro, Staff Sgt. Zak Ribble, TSgt. 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.**

Retreat Registration - All youth in grades 9-12 are invited to our 2024 youth retreat, "OUR FATHER", to be held February 23-25 at Camp Manatawny. This retreat is run by teens from the St. Catharine's, St. Ignatius, and St. Benedict's Youth Groups. Cost is \$50. Registration forms can be found on the tables in the back of the Church or from the youth website www.secsyouth.weebly.com Space is limited. Register now to reserve your spot. You will not be disappointed!



Our first parish Dinner & Movie Night (2/3) went very well with about 75 people, both young and old, in attendance! Together we enjoyed a delicious free meal, a fun movie, door prizes and great fellowship. There was even fresh popcorn thanks to our pastor's efforts. Thanks to all who donated their time and effort to make this happen and to all who came out to spend time together.

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 60th year on his/her 59th 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 (February 18th to May 26th) 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.**

Catholic Trivia ANSWER: A - There is mystery and uncertainty surrounding who Valentine really was as there is little history about him. Some believe he was a local Priest in 3rd Century Rome, and when Emperor Claudius II banned marriages because he thought that young men should join the army and not get married, Valentine married couples in secret. When this was discovered, he was jailed and then killed on February 14th. This was possibly after sending a note signed "your Valentine" to the formerly blind daughter of the nobleman who was imprisoning him after he healed her. He may also have been the Bishop of Terni Italy and have been killed and buried in the same place in Rome as the other Valentine. Whoever he was, Pope Gelasius I named Valentine a Saint in 496 and declared February 14th at Saint Valentine's Day. His relics can be found in Rome, Dublin, Madrid and Prague among other places. Valentine's Day as a romantic holiday is attributed to author Geoffrey Chaucer whose Middle Ages poetry inspired lover's to send each other letters on February 14th. Saint Valentine is known as the Patron Saint of lovers, epileptics and beekeepers.

If you are underemployed or unemployed or know someone who is, let Joseph's People help! We have helped thousands of people over the years and there is never a fee for our services. Email Paul Licata for more info at:
pauljosephlicata@gmail.com
www.josephspeople.org

St. Catharine's/St. Mary's Parish will be participating in a parish-wide survey! Please Read

St. Catharine's/St. Mary's will be participating in a parish survey about discipleship conducted by the Catholic Leadership Institute! We need your help!

Please help us by participating in a 10-15 minute survey online. The survey can be accessed through an online link from **Wednesday, February 14 - Wednesday, March 27** and will ask you to reflect on your own spiritual growth and enable you to provide feedback on our parish's efforts to help you grow. All responses will be confidential and the parish will only receive information about the community as whole. *We will share the link with you when the survey opens.*

We are trying to get the highest response rate possible. This information will be invaluable to Father Miller and our various ministries as we plan for the future and strive to be the best disciples we can be. We will receive the results this spring/summer at which time we will share what we have learned with the entire parish.

If you prefer a paper copy you may pick up a paper copy of the survey after daily and Sunday Masses . They will be located at the SCRIP table. To submit the completed paper survey, please drop off either at the scrip table or the Parish Center. To make special arrangements for getting a paper copy, please contact the parish center office at 610-779-4005.

Thank you for helping with this important project!

Every vote counts!



Father Miller, Father Kuna, Deacon JV & Jeff will represent Saint Catharine's & St. Mary's in COOKS WITH COLLARS, an online cooking competition to raise funds for parishes and Catholic Charities in the Diocese of Allentown. Visit www.cookswithcollars.com to see your favorite priests from around the Diocese creating delicious kitchen concoctions. Vote early and vote often for our Diocesan top chef! Each vote is just \$10.00. All voting proceeds benefit our parish. Thanks for making St. Catharine's & St. Mary's a winner! Donations can be dropped off at the Parish Center.