

Welcome to the Parishes of St. Joseph and St. Patrick

Remembering
Feb. 24-March 1



February 23, 2020
Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)
Lv 19:1-2, 17-18
1 Cor 3:16-23
Mt 5:38-48

Monday
8:00am (SJ)

✦ **The Intentions of
Marilyn Curry**
The Bradley Family

TUESDAY
12:00pm

✦ **For The People of
Saint Patrick's**

ASH WEDNESDAY
8:00am Mass (SJ)
12:00pm Mass (SP)

7:00pm (SP & SJ)
**Liturgy of the Word with
Distribution of Ashes**

THURSDAY
8:00am (SJ)

✦ **The Intentions of
Jenny Bradley**
The Family

FRIDAY
Stations of the Cross
6:00pm (SP & SJ)

SATURDAY

4:00pm (SJ)
✦ **The People of
St. Joseph's Parish**

5:30pm (SP)
✦ **James O'Donnell**
Ken & Pat Corcoran

SUNDAY

8:30am (SJ)
✦ **Jean Curzi**
Pat Craig

11:00 (SP)
✦ **Una Coyne**
Husband, Peter

Be Perfect

Wow, that's a tall order! But what does *perfect* mean? The Greek word means "full" or "complete." In the first reading, Leviticus calls us to be *holy*, a word with cultic allusions—to be set apart to be used for God. Though not possessing exactly the same sense, there is a connection between *perfect* and *holy*, for to be set apart to be used for God will certainly make us perfect, fulfilled, and complete. So what does Jesus mean when he tells us to be perfect, as God is perfect?

Continuing our reflection on the Sermon on the Mount, we find Jesus telling us how we are to be perfect as God is perfect. He offers two examples of extraordinary behavior. The Mesopotamian code of Hammurabi states "An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth." The punishment may not exceed the crime.

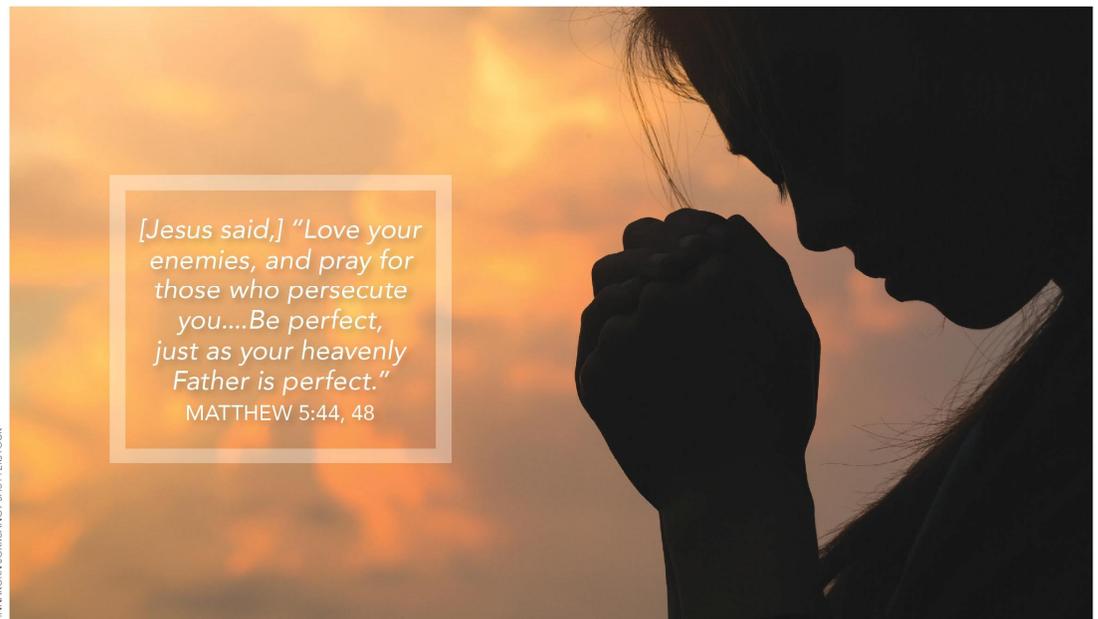
This was a step forward in ancient justice.

Jesus said that this is not enough. There is to be no vindictiveness, no revenge, regardless of how equivalent it might appear. The reason for this is that God loves and cares for all, even those who do us injustice. God makes the "sun rise on the bad and the good, and causes rain to fall on the just and the unjust" (Matthew 5:46). In this way, we must be like God; we must love all, no exceptions. This is what it means to be perfect. It is indeed a tall order. But it is the way to be fulfilled, to be complete.

—Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

FOR Reflection

- ★ *Where in your life are you being called to consecrate yourself to God and God's work?*
- ★ *Where in your life are you being challenged to love more unselfishly?*



[Jesus said,] "Love your enemies, and pray for those who persecute you....Be perfect, just as your heavenly Father is perfect."
MATTHEW 5:44, 48

Welcome

Our entire Parish Families welcome all of you who have come to worship with us today. We encourage you to participate fully in the spiritual, ministerial and social life of our parish community.

Sacrament of Baptism

All parents are required to attend a pre-baptismal instruction. Please contact your Parish Office to make arrangements for this opportunity for spiritual renewal

Sacrament of Marriage

Couples contemplating marriage should notify your Parish Office at least six months before the date of their intended marriage.

Sacrament of the Sick

The Sacrament of the Sick is for the comfort and strength of the ill. It is not just intended for those in immediate danger of death. It is a help and comfort to the living. If a parishioner is homebound or hospitalized, please contact your Parish Office.

ASH WEDNESDAY SCHEDULE

February 26th is Ash Wednesday and the beginning of our Lenten journey.

The schedule is:

Mass 8:00am (SJ) with distribution of Ashes
Mass 12:00pm (SP) with distribution of Ashes
Liturgy of the Word 7:00pm (SP & SJ) with distribution of Ashes.

Friday's beginning February 28th there will be **Stations of the Cross** (SP & SJ) at 6:00pm

Monday evenings beginning March 2nd

"The Light is On" Confessions

St. Patrick's from 5:30 to 6:15pm

St. Joseph's from 6:45 to 7:30pm

Please check future bulletins for more Lenten services

ADULT EDUCATION OPPORTUNITY FOR LENT

Every Tuesday evening during Lent, starting 7pm, beginning March 3rd at St. Patrick Church Hall, the adult education team of St. Patrick and St. Joseph will be presenting the Eucharist in Sacred Scripture by Dr. Scott Hahn. All are invited to join us for conversation and refreshments following the video.

WARMING STATION NEEDS YOUR

HELP! The Tri-State Warming Station in Port Jervis, is open for its fourth season serving the homeless in our midst. Every night until Spring, the warming station will provide shelter for those without it, along with hot meals and hot showers. The need is real—we welcome as many as 20 guests each night—and it takes a lot of volunteer energy to make this work. Some of your fellow parishioners are already helping out, and you can too. Volunteers to cook and deliver dinner or to stay overnight to help watch over the guests are especially needed. Financial support is welcome, too. To get involved, or for more information, contact Kevin (from St. Joseph's) at kevinwalter@earthlink.net or (570) 296-6902.

EMERGENCY PHONE NUMBER

This number is for a death or Anointing of the Sick only for St. Joseph's and St. Patrick's Parishes (570) 591-1405 please leave your name, phone number and a brief message. Any messages or questions left at this number pertaining to regular Office business will not be answered.

K OF C FAMILY & FRIENDS DINNER

Is held the 4th Sunday of every month from 1-3 at St. Patrick's Church Hall. If you plan to attend call Al Helms at 845-699-4143. Thank you.

SOCIAL CONCERNS

Sponsored by United Way. If you need help with food, paying bills, health care, employment, housing etc. Pike County dial directly 855-567-5341.

MEN SAVE THE DATE!

The 6th Annual Diocese of Scranton Men's Conference will be held on Saturday, April 25, 2020 at Holy Redeemer High School in Wilkes-Barre. The theme will be "Called to Fatherhood". The focus will be on St. Joseph, the earthly father to his Divine Son, Jesus Christ and husband of our Blessed Mother Mary. He is our example of earthly fatherhood as leader, protector and provider for the Holy Family. As Joseph met the challenges of fatherhood in his day, we must meet them in ours. More information will follow as to how to register and sign up for this conference.

PENNSYLVANIA MARCH FOR LIFE

Monday, May 18, 2020, Pennsylvania State Capitol Rally 11:00am March 12pm. The national march for Life in Washington every January has become the largest pro-life event in the world. And there are many people who are pro-life who are unable to attend the march due to the time of year and location.

A DAY OF PRAYER FOR THE SICK

Thursday, February 27th "A Day of Prayer for the Sick" a Mass will be celebrated at 11:00am St. John Neumann Church 705 Route 739, Lords Valley, Pennsylvania **Communal Celebration of the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick.**

This is a day when many Catholics bring their sick or infirm family members to the church for prayers and for them to receive the **Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick.**

The priests will anoint those who can benefit from this sacrament:

- Someone whose health is seriously impaired by sickness or old age.
- Those who are chronically ill or have a serious health condition
- someone who will be undergoing surgery
- Seriously ill children
- those who have any emotional, mental or physical illness.

Following Mass lunch will be served in the Church Hall

If you are interested in attending and would like more information please contact:

Joan sjnfin@ptd.net 570-775-6791 or

Carol stann@ptd.net 570-832-4275

The Catholic Community of St. Joseph

MINISTRY SCHEDULE
Feb 29-Mar 1

Saturday 4:00pm
Lector <i>Larry Marcial</i>
Eucharistic Minister
Altar Servers <i>Ryan & Eric Schanzenbacher</i>
Sunday 8:30am
Lector <i>Tom McMullen</i>
Eucharistic Minister
Altar Server <i>Lucas Helms Robert McMullen</i>
Milford Senior Care <i>02/23 Lois Lazarczyk 3/1 Chuck Pike</i>

A SPECIAL WELCOME TO VISITORS

We are so glad you've chosen to worship with us today. Whether you are a prospective parishioner, a neighbor, or visitor to the area, we hope you'll find a warm welcome at St. Joseph's. All are welcome here regardless of your status in the church, your prior religious experience, or your personal history. We hope to see you again soon!

ENRICH YOUR LENTEN JOURNEY

A free copy of "Not By Bread Alone: Daily Reflections for Lent 2020" is available for every family at the main entrances to the church. Consider taking a copy, if you haven't already. In just minutes per day, the Scripture readings and meditations in this booklet can deepen your experience of Lent and prepare you to participate more fully in the joy of the Easter mystery. There are also other materials to help you grow in faith, including books, pamphlets, CDs, and DVDs, newly added to the shelves in the vestibule. Many are free or available for just a small donation.

ST. JOSEPH'S FEAST DAY CELEBRATION

Please join us for a special Mass and celebration on the feast day of St Joseph, the Patron Saint of our parish. The Mass will be on Thursday, March 19th at 7pm here at St. Joseph's. Lite refreshments will be served after Mass in the Multipurpose room. The 8 am Mass will not be held on that Thursday. Mark your calendar and join us on this special day for our parish.

ST. JOSEPH'S ALTAR & ROSARY SOCIETY

Meets the 1st Monday of every month. The Society consists of the women of the parish, 18 years or older and is a support to the spiritual needs of its members and the Church. The Society holds fundraisers and assists our Parish with any fundraising activities. Currently, St. Joseph's Altar & Rosary sponsors our Palm Sunday Brunch and The Bacculaureate Mass/Breakfast in our Parish. The next scheduled meeting is Monday, March 2nd at 7:00pm. In the Multipurpose Room. **New Members are always welcome!**

WE ARE CALLED

Join our faith community and more than 14,000 Catholic communities across the United States in a life-changing Lenten journey with CRS Rice Bowl, Catholic Relief Services' Lenten faith-in-action program. Pick up your family's CRS Rice Bowl at one of the main entrances to the church this weekend or on Ash Wednesday. During the 40 days of Lent, we will reflect on the **challenge of global hunger and how it affects our human family.**

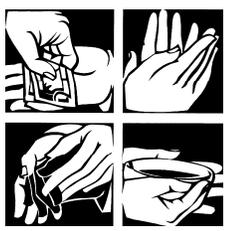
FOOD PANTRY

Our next food pantry will be Friday, March 13th from 6 - 8pm (Team A). To volunteer please call Clare Nied at 570-296-2506.

The Sanctuary Candle burns
For the Intentions of
Robert Fix Sr.
By
The Bensley Family

Weekly Offering	Last Year
February 16, 2020 \$3875.50	February 17, 2019 \$ 3872.00

Thank you for your generosity!



*OUR PARISH MISSION STATEMENT *

We, the parish of St. Joseph's, in union with our Holy Father, our bishop, and our pastor, seek to grow in holiness as a welcoming and caring family reaching out to all. As a faith-filled community celebrating the Eucharist, we strive to enrich our spiritual lives by cultivating a deeper relationship with Christ through the sacraments. We are united in faith and find unity in diversity as we pray for the grace to use our gifts and talents to promote the knowledge of God's love.



PRAYING FOR VOCATIONS—MARCH 15TH AT ST. PATRICK'S

We will pray for vocations in a Special Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament on Sunday, March 15th immediately after the 11:00 Mass at St. Patrick's. It will conclude with Benediction (Blessing) of the Blessed Sacrament. Join us in asking the Lord to inspire young men and women to answer His call to the priesthood and religious life in St. Joseph's and St. Patrick's as well as the entire Scranton Diocese. Come and spend some time with the Lord.

RELIGIOUS ED.

The make up date for the First Holy Communion's Penance Service is next Saturday, February 29th at 11:00. The snow date will be March 7th.

DIOCESE ANNUAL APPEAL

We have raised \$27,566.00(78%) of our goal. It's not too late to consider donating to the Annual Appeal. God Bless you!

FOOD PANTRY

Saint Patrick's Team will serve at the Food Pantry on Friday evening, March, 20, 2020 at 6:00pm.

ST. PATRICK'S PRAYER CHAIN

Anyone who wishes to have prayers said for themselves or another may send via e-mail to Tom Hogan at thogan@ptd.net or 570 872-4925.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COFFEE AND CHAT

The Knights of Columbus will be hosting a Coffee and Chat in the Narthex following the 11:00 Mass the 2nd Sunday of each month. Please take time to stop, have a cup of coffee or juice and visit with your fellow parishioners. It's a great time to catch up.

SAINT PATRICK'S DAY DINNER

March is almost on us and we are well underway in planning for the St. Patrick's annual dinner. The date is set for March 14th following the 5:30 Mass in the Church Hall. Anyone wishing to donate a "tricky tray" basket for this event, please do so. You may drop your "tray" at the office any time prior to the dinner or by calling the office to make arrangements. Ticket sales will take place in a few weeks, keep an eye on bulletin for more details!

"Erin Go Bragh" ...and on Tuesday, March 17th in honor of our patron Saint, Patrick, there will be no 12 Noon Mass. Mass will be celebrated at 7:00PM. After the Mass there will be light refreshments in the Narthex along with our own special blend of Irish Coffee. If anyone would like to bake their favorite Irish Soda Bread to bring, please call the Parish Office to let them know.

PEOPLE HELPING PEOPLE BAKE SALE

Thank you for your generosity in last weeks' bake sale. Please mark your calendars for our next bake sale which is 21 and 22nd.

MINISTRY SCHEDULE

Feb. 29-March 1st

Saturday 5:30pm
Lector Ray Proulx
Communion Ministers
Altar Servers Caterina Catizone & Nicholas Dinos
Sunday 11:00am
Lector Diane Dennis
Communion Ministers
Altar Servers Amelia and Lelaina Hopper & Carli Lock



Weekly Collection

February 16, 2020

\$ TBA

February 23, 2020

\$

This time last year

\$2,026.00



Weekly Mortgage Offertory

February 16, 2020

\$ TBA

February 23, 2020

\$

Year to Date July'19- Current

\$26,259.00

Goal for the Year \$100,000

You may have the Sanctuary Candle burn in memory of a loved one. Please call the Parish Office to make arrangements.

St. Patrick's Parish is the presence of the Catholic Church in a diverse and vibrant area of northeastern Pennsylvania. As disciples, we dedicate ourselves to hearing, learning and sharing the good news of God's Word as we reverently celebrate the presence of Jesus Christ in the Eucharist. Together, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, we seek to know, love and serve God. We strive to promote a culture of love and respect for all human life and for the beautiful world in which we live. We welcome all people to participate in the spiritual and social life of our parish family.

Dear Padre,

A Protestant friend says all the Catholic rituals aren't necessary to get to heaven. What can I say to convince her?

Your friend is correct about heaven: God wishes the salvation of everyone—not just Catholics (Dogmatic Constitution on the Church [*Lumen Gentium*], 13). Even so, Catholics believe—and Christ taught us—that certain rituals are necessary to enter heaven. Baptism is one example.

But being Catholic isn't just about getting to heaven. Earthly benefits abound!

Take the Mass: holy Communion gives us Jesus Christ's very Body and Blood. The sacrament of reconciliation absolves our sins, bringing us peace, comfort, and a closer relationship to God. Our saints and the Blessed Mother inspire us and intercede on our behalf. Our Church leaders—ordained and religious—bring Christ to our lives. Our Catholic hymns and prayer traditions help us offer praise and thanks in a unique way. Your priest and the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* can explain in detail the

spiritual and temporal benefits of our rituals and rich traditions.

Once we get to heaven, the need for distinctions among those of different Christian faiths dissolves. But until then, we shouldn't follow the beliefs and practices of the Catholic Church simply because it's the religion of our parents or spouse; we should follow them because we believe they show us how to deepen our relationship with God by living as Jesus wanted us to.

So while "all the Catholic rituals" do prepare us for heaven, they also enrich and inform our earthly lives in ways we can't find anywhere else. I thank God for my Catholicism every day—and you should, too.

—Fr. Scott Katzenberger, CSSR
Sundaybulletin@Liguori.org



A WORD FROM *Pope Francis*

One of the essential characteristics of this vocation to perfection is the love of our enemies, which protects us from the temptation to seek revenge and from the spiral of endless retaliation....Those who evangelize must therefore be first and foremost practitioners of forgiveness, specialists in reconciliation, experts in mercy.

—HOMILY IN THE CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC,
NOVEMBER 29, 2015



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Calendar

Monday
FEBRUARY 24
Weekday
Jas 3:13–18
Mk 9:14–29

Tuesday
FEBRUARY 25
Weekday
Jas 4:1–10
Mk 9:30–37

Wednesday
FEBRUARY 26
Ash Wednesday
Jl 2:12–18
2 Cor 5:20—6:2

Thursday
FEBRUARY 27
Thursday after
Ash Wednesday
Dt 30:15–20
Lk 9:22–25

Friday
FEBRUARY 28
Friday after
Ash Wednesday
Is 58:1–9a
Mt 9:14–15

Saturday
FEBRUARY 29
Saturday after
Ash Wednesday
Is 58:9b–14
Lk 5:27–32

Sunday
MARCH 1
First Sunday of Lent
Gn 2:7–9; 3:1–7
Rom 5:12–19 or 5:12,
17–19
Mt 4:1–11

Daily Prayer

This is a wonderful week to ask the question: "Who do we may feel like we never have enough; enough money, time, love, status or anything else that seems to be the focus of our lives. We live lives that are packed with activities, meetings and obligations - keeping our hearts distracted away from our relationship with God, from our families and from others in our lives who need our love.

In these few days before Lent begins, we can begin to prepare our hearts by asking ourselves how we want Lent to be different this year. What do we want to ask the Lord to give us - and more importantly, we can ask what the Lord wants for us this Lent. What gift of generosity, love or attention can we share with others in the weeks ahead? How can we focus on the Lenten season and ask that our hearts be opened to what is real - not to the externals which distract us so much? How will I be with my family and friends this Lent? What will I do that sets this season apart from my normal routines? How can I name, anticipate and feel the gifts the Lord showers on me with such love in the weeks ahead? And every morning, we can begin by sitting at the side of our beds with our hands open on our laps, asking God to help us receive these gifts with open hearts. We can carry that focus with us throughout the day, remembering in the quiet moments what we are asking for. Always, we end our day simply thanking God for the love and gifts of the day. For the first four days of Lent, it will be a great help to set aside some time, even if it means getting up earlier each morning, to read about what Lent can mean and to let that soak into our

hearts. The key is not to be somber or severe in any way, but to know that this is a time of great grace so that we can be attentive to it. The first thing to remember is that these 40 days are a gift to us. We are not trying to save ourselves by our Lenten practices. God has already saved us. We are only trying to let God get our attention and to give grace a chance to work in us. These days are critically important for choosing to establish some Lenten patterns. Depending upon our age or health, we will want to do some fasting and abstinence, in regard to food. But, each of us can choose what else we can fast and abstain from during Lent. What practices of mine get in the way of my being open to hearing God's Word and responding freely? That's what needs transforming. Giving up needing to be right, fasting from my impatience, totally abstaining from escapist fantasies will open our hearts to God's grace. None of that takes extra time. It just takes desire. Adding new acts of kindness, gratitude and love each day for family and friends will open our hearts to the greater acts of charity and generosity for the poor. Finally, Lent is the perfect time to choose to grow in gratitude. Every night, before going to bed, let us be faithful to giving thanks to the Lord who has given us so many blessings and offers us new graces each and every day.

"Creighton University's Online Ministries web site: <http://www.creighton.edu/CollaborativeMinistry/online.html>
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 **Liguori**
PUBLICATIONS
A Redemptorist Ministry