

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

Remembering
March 23-29



Our Parish COMMUNITY

March 22, 2020

Fourth Sunday of Lent (A)

1 Sm 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a

Eph 5:8-14

Jn 9:1-41 or 9:1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38

Monday
8:00am (SJ)

Michael McCarthy
Jim & Karen Colaiaco

TUESDAY
12:00pm

Mary Bross
Florida Friends

WEDNESDAY
12:00pm Mass

Catherine Umberto
Anne & David Dunn

THURSDAY
8:00am (SJ)

Rosemarie McDonald
The Hinkson Family

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

SATURDAY

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

5:30pm (SP)
Dale Greeves
Helen Findlay

SUNDAY

8:30am (SJ)
Scott Koval
Sylchak, Edwards, &
Shafer Families

11:00 (SP)
Ralph & Olympia
Contreras
The Contreras Family



I See

Do we? Do we really see? Do we understand? There is so much that is simply misunderstood or unnoticed. Little about life is uncomplicated, and even that which is uncomplicated so often slips right by us. This is true about a life lived alone or with others. It is also true about our life with God.

The first reading is an example of this. God will choose one of the sons of Jesse to be king. Will it be the eldest, the rightful heir? If not him, perhaps it will be the brightest one or the most pious. All of these highly valued characteristics would certainly be necessary for one to be an effective king. However, Jesse and his sons did not see in the same way as God. Their youngest brother, the one tending the sheep, would be God's choice. He was the one God wanted, and so David was anointed in the presence of his family.

The Gospel tells another story about seeing. In it, Jesus restores a man's sight. What began as a story about physical blindness and sight then becomes a lesson about seeing and understanding the mystery of God's power as opposed to refusing to see and understand it. No one in the story could claim that the man had not really been blind. Then why did they refuse to acknowledge that God's power had done something marvelous in their presence? But they did refuse. We can, indeed, choose to be blind.

—Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

FOR Reflection

- ★ Does bias make you blind to the gifts of others?
- ★ Do you find it difficult to recognize the power of God as it unfolds before you? Why?

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.

March 22, 2020 Fourth Sunday of Lent

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Effective immediately, and until further notice, I have suspended the celebration of Masses open to the public and all public gatherings in all diocesan parishes, worship sites, college campuses, chapels and health care facilities in the eleven counties of the Diocese of Scranton.

Churches of the Diocese will remain open daily for individual private prayer. The timeframe for each parish is to be determined by its pastor or parish life coordinator. The dispensation from the obligation to attend Mass during this time remains in effect.

Scheduled sacramental celebrations such as weddings, baptisms or funerals will be permitted, but attendance will be limited to immediate family members and follow any guidelines established by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The sacraments of the Anointing of the Sick and Reconciliation will be available, when requested individually, by the faithful in cases of serious need.

It deeply saddens me to take this temporary action, knowing the depth of your faith and your desire to celebrate the Holy Eucharist on a regular basis. In light of continued concerns surrounding COVID-19, and upon the advice of medical experts, it is clear that we, as a faith community, must do our part in order to help slow the spread of this virus.

The number of faithful souls who filled our churches this past weekend, even with the dispensation from the obligation to attend Mass, was deeply consoling to me. As you always have, so many of you are turning to your faith as the surest place where we will find God's peace, consolation and hope.

Unfortunately, the presence of such great numbers of worshippers in our churches is not serving our efforts to help mitigate the spread of the Coronavirus. In an effort to prevent overwhelming our hospitals and health care facilities, national, state and local leaders have urged people to avoid large gatherings of people and keep appropriate social distancing from one another.

As your bishop, in addition to the care of souls, the safety and health of all of our faithful parishioners, friends and those we welcome through our outreach and service, is of utmost importance to me. As such, the decision that I have announced, while difficult, is the best way for us to work together to serve the common good of all, both in our parishes and in our communities.

During these challenging times, it is also crucial that we not forget who we are as Christians. May we continue to offer, in whatever way we can, care and concern for those who are most vulnerable, including the poor, our senior citizens and those who are ill. I also urge those who can do so to maintain support for your parishes during these difficult days in order to sustain the ministries and outreach services for parishioners and those most in need.

Despite the suspension of public Masses, a private Mass will be celebrated daily in the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton, and made available on CTV: Catholic Television of the Diocese of Scranton. On weekdays, the Mass will be broadcast at 12:10 p.m., 3:30 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. On weekends, the Saturday Vigil Mass will be broadcast at 4:00 p.m. and rebroadcast on Sunday morning at 10:00 a.m. The Masses will also be streamed on the Diocese of Scranton's website (www.dioceseofscranton.org), made available on the Diocese of Scranton's social media platforms (Facebook, Twitter and Instagram) and will be accessible on the Diocese of Scranton's YouTube channel.

Additional resources for individual parishioners to deepen their faith during Lent are also available on the Diocese of Scranton's website.

During this sacred season of Lent, we are being asked to sacrifice more than ever before – particularly with the loss of cherished religious practices, most especially the celebration of the Holy Eucharist. May we do so mindful of the selfless sacrifice of Jesus and for the sake of our brothers and sisters who are most vulnerable and in need of our help.

The Diocese of Scranton continues to monitor the rapidly evolving health situation regarding the coronavirus. We are constantly monitoring directives from national, state and local officials. This policy will be reassessed on a regular basis, in addition to the plans for Holy Week and Easter.

God bless you and keep each of you in His care. Let us continue to pray for one another.

Faithfully yours in Christ,

†Joseph C. Bambera

Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, D.D., J.C.L.

Bishop of Scranton

The Catholic Community of St. Joseph

MINISTRY SCHEDULE
March 28-29

Saturday 4:00pm
Lector <i>Diana Sierra</i>
Eucharistic Minister
Altar Servers <i>Eric Cabrera-Agostini</i> <i>Ella Carroll</i>
Sunday 8:30am
Lector <i>Makayla Csencsits</i>
Eucharistic Minister
Altar Server <i>Daniel & Cole</i> <i>Corcoran</i>
Milford Senior Care <i>Visits cancelled until</i> <i>further notice.....</i>

A SPECIAL WELCOME TO VISITORS

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

EASTER LILY MEMORIALS

Because of the uncertainty of what the future will bring. We will not be offering the Easter Lily Memorials this year.

PALM SUNDAY BRUNCH - CANCELLED

PLEASE LEND A (VIRTUAL) HAND

St. Joseph's is building an active presence on Facebook to better serve our parish. Please take a moment this week to follow us! More followers means wider reach and more impact for all the parish news, invitations, and updates. Find us at @stjosephsmatamorasp.

MT. CARMEL SOCIETY

famous Sausage and Pepper sit down/take out on March 28th has been cancelled.

FOOD PANTRY

Our next food pantry will be Friday, April 17th from 6 - 8pm (Team B). To volunteer please call Clare Nied at 570-296-2506.

ST. JOSEPH'S PRAYER CIRCLE

Anyone who wishes to have prayers said for themselves or another may call Karen Sweeney @570-491-2228 or Tom Hogan @ 570-872-4925. If you wish you may also send the name via email to either Karen at sweeneyfive2002@yahoo.com or Tom at tchogan@ptd.net.

SAVE THE DATE!

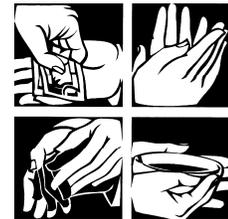
Parish picnic - Sunday, Sept. 13th, beginning at 12 noon.

The Sanctuary Candle
burns

In Memory of
Michael McCarthy

By
The Bensley Family

Weekly Offering	Last Year
March 15, 2020 \$ 2524.00	March 17, 2019 \$ 3359.00
<i>Thank you for your generosity!</i>	



***OUR 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.



EASTER LILY MEMORIALS

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ST. PATRICK'S PRAYER CHAIN

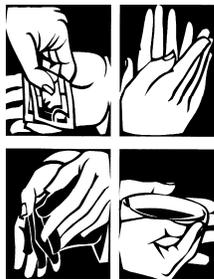
Anyone who wishes to have prayers said for themselves or another may send via e-mail to Tom Hogan at thogan@ptd.net or 570 872-4925.

NOTICE REGARDING REPORTING SEXUAL ABUSE OF A MINOR

It is the policy of the Diocese of Scranton to report any allegation of sexual abuse of a minor to law enforcement. If you are a victim of sexual abuse committed by a priest, deacon, religious or lay employee or volunteer of the Diocese of Scranton, you are encouraged to immediately report the matter to law enforcement. If any priest, deacon, religious, lay employee or volunteer of the Diocese of Scranton has cause or reason to suspect that a minor has been subjected to any form of abuse, including child sexual abuse, the matter will be reported to law enforcement. In accordance with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's Child Protective Services Laws, reports of suspected child abuse should also be made immediately by phone to the 24-Hour Child Abuse hotline (ChildLine) at 1-800-932-0313 or electronically at www.compass.state.pa.us/cwis. It is also the policy of the Diocese to adhere to all civil and state regulations. To this end, the Diocese is equally committed to adhering to the norms of the Code of Canon Law and to upholding the tenets of the USCCB Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People, which includes supporting victims of sexual abuse in their pursuit of emotional and spiritual well-being. As such, information regarding an allegation of sexual abuse of a minor should also be reported to the Victim Assistance Coordinator Mary Beth Pacuska at (570-862-7551).

MINISTRY SCHEDULE March 28-29

Saturday 5:30pm
Lector Joe Sudano
Communion Ministers
Altar Servers Nicholas Dinos, Riley Mapes, Sophia Mullen
Sunday 11:00am
Lector Joe Casmus
Communion Ministers
Altar Servers Nicole Traxler, Abby & Anna Vogel



Weekly Collection

March 15, 2020
\$ TBA

This time last year
\$2,169.00

Weekly Mortgage Offertory

March 15, 2020
\$ TBA

Year to Date July'19- Current
\$28,386.00

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,

Why does the Church honor St. Joseph?

Saint Joseph was chosen by the Lord to be the spouse of Mary and a guardian of the Word Incarnate, Jesus Christ. The little we know about Joseph is taken from the Gospels. In the Book of Matthew, we learn that Mary is betrothed to Joseph, "a righteous man" (Matthew 1:19). When Joseph learns



that Mary is already with child, he decides to dismiss her quietly so as not to disgrace her publicly. But an angel of the Lord appears to him in a dream and tells him not to be afraid to take Mary as his wife and informs him that she will bear the child of the Holy Spirit, the one who will come to save people from their sins. Joseph obeys the angel without question.

Joseph heeds God's call once again when instructed by an angel of the Lord to flee Bethlehem to escape the murderous Herod. Matthew tells us: "Joseph rose and took the child and his mother by night and departed for Egypt" (Matthew 2:14).

It is this faithfulness, this steadfast and complete trust in God, that makes Joseph such a wonderful example for us, and for this, the Church honors him.

—Fr. Paul Coury, CSSR
Sundaybulletin@Liguori.org



A WORD FROM *Pope Francis*

We can imagine what Joseph must have been thinking. How is it that the Son of God has no home? ...And those of us who do have a home, a roof over our heads, would also do well to ask: Why do these, our brothers and sisters, have no place to live?

—MEETING WITH THE HOMELESS, SEPTEMBER 24, 2015

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is grace to feel grateful to the Lord for showing us obstacles to the life he is offering us. It is grace to feel our spirits lighten as we feel drawn to greater freedom and peace. It is incredible grace when we are drawn to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation. This week, let us give thanks to the Lord who deeply desires our greater freedom and joy. As we go to bed each night, let us thank the Lord for what we saw that day and renew our desires for the next day of grace.

"Creighton University's Online Ministries web site: <http://www.creighton.edu/CollaborativeMinistry/online.html>
Used with permission. <http://onlineministries.creighton.edu/>

Calendar

Monday

MARCH 23

Lenten Weekday

Is 65:17-21

Jn 4:43-54

Tuesday

MARCH 24

Lenten Weekday

Ez 47:1-9, 12

Jn 5:1-16

Wednesday

MARCH 25

The Annunciation
of the Lord

Is 7:10-14; 8:10

Heb 10:4-10

Lk 1:26-38

Thursday

MARCH 26

Lenten Weekday

Ex 32:7-14

Jn 5:31-47

Friday

MARCH 27

Lenten Weekday

Wis 2:1a, 12-22

Jn 7:1-2, 10, 25-30

Saturday

MARCH 28

Lenten Weekday

Jer 11:18-20

Jn 7:40-53

Sunday

MARCH 29

Fifth Sunday
of Lent

Ez 37:12-14

Rom 8:8-11

Jn 11:1-45 or

Jn 11:3-7, 17,

20-27, 33b-45

Daily Prayer

The readings this week make it very clear that Jesus faced opposition that couldn't accept who he is. We see that Jesus comes to lay down his life that we might live. So, this week of Lent is an important time for us to ask ourselves if there are any parts of our hearts, any of our patterns, that oppose Jesus and his desire to give us life. This kind of honesty can transform our lives. It can allow the grace of God to bring reconciliation and healing we might not have imagined.

Even if it hasn't been easy to get really engaged with Lent so far, we can still make a beginning, even now. The key is openness and desire. If we can feel any attraction, any sign that the Lord is possibly drawing us, then the Lord can work with us - no matter what resistance or fear we might also be experiencing. All we have to do is act out of these desires and simply ask the Lord for the grace to help us be more honest and more open to what he is offering us. For example, we can ask for the grace to examine our consciences more thoroughly. We could try a different approach to facing any resistance we might have to the Lord's working in us. We might not commit the big sins, but we might not have examined what we fail to do. Who am I failing to love, to forgive, to be generous to? With whom am I withholding affection, care, reconciliation? Where can I live more honestly, with more integrity? How might I proactively change patterns of escape with patterns of care for others?

It is a time of grace when we can experience moments of "recognition," or self-understanding. It isn't grace to "beat up on" ourselves. It



is a time of grace when we can experience moments of "recognition," or self-understanding. It isn't grace to "beat up on" ourselves. It