

Holy Family Parish  
1921 Eden Park Boulevard  
McKeesport, Pa. 15132  
412.678.0566; 412.276.5562

[www.hfpncc.org](http://www.hfpncc.org)

Facebook: Holy Family National Catholic Church  
Fr. Bruce Sleczkowski, Pastor



Lent 2  
March 5, 2023

Change of address or phone number, for parish registration, hospital visitations and sacramental needs, baptism and wedding arrangements, please contact the Parish Office by calling 412.276.5562 or 412.678.0566. **Office Hours:** Fridays 9:00 A.M. to 11:00 A.M. Evenings by appointment. **Bulletin announcements** should be received by Wednesday for Sunday publication either by phone or E-mail at [BSleczkowski@aol.com](mailto:BSleczkowski@aol.com)

Parish Staff:

Fr. Bruce Sleczkowski, Pastor 412.276.5562  
Ted Gibala, Committee Chairman 412.678.7347  
Carol Davelli Chopin Choir Director 412.678.2368  
Wendy Blotzer, Organist, Bell Choir 412.926.6029  
David Kost, Lector Coordinator 412.519.7771  
Tom Popovic, Cemetery Coordinator 724.243.3033  
Parish Custodian 412.678.7347



**Pray for Ukraine**



## **This Week**

**Sunday, March 5, 2023**

**Lent 2**

**Holy Mass**

9:00 A.M.

**+Deacon Raymond Lagesse and Max Sleczkowski Int. Lagesse and Sleczkowski Families +Jon Adamek Int. Cathi Glanz**

SOCL

10:15 A.M.

Holy Mass

11:00 A.M.

**Monday, March 6, 2023**

Annunciation Bell Choir Rehearsal

6:30 P.M.

**Wednesday, March 8, 2023**

Chopin Choir Rehearsal

1:00 P.M.

**Friday, March 10, 2023**

Stations of the Cross

7:00 P.M.

**Sunday, March 12, 2023**

**Institution of the PNCC**

**Mission Collection**

Holy Mass

9:00 A.M.

**+Rita Gdovic (Ann. Of Death) Int. husband Dennis Gdovic;**

**+Mildred Kotulsky Int. Karyn Muse**

SAMBS Monthly Meeting

10:15 A.M.

SOCL

10:15 A.M.

YMSof R Monthly Meeting

10:15 A.M.

Holy Mass

11:00 A.M.

### **2022 Financial Fair Share Report**

If you would like a copy of your 2022 Fair Share Donations for Income Tax, please contact Fr. Bruce via telephone or Email.

**PNU District 5 Branch 132**

**“Roll Away the Stone of Hunger**

**Lenten Food Drive**

Please bring can or dried food donations to the Church and help roll away the stone of hunger in our community. The Food Drive ends Passion Sunday.

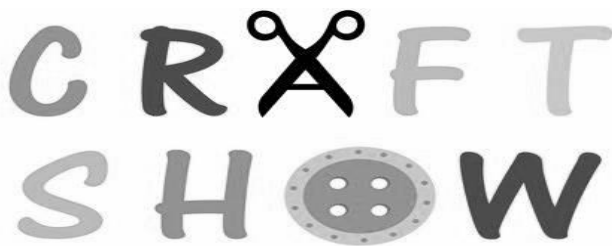
## Easter Flowers

Envelopes are now available in the Church Narthex to purchase Easter Flower for the Church in memory of loved ones.

**Spring Craft Show**  
**March 25<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 A.M.-3:00 P.M.**



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tion Baskets & Lottery Tickets (received by Sunday March 12<sup>th</sup>)  
50/50 Raffle tickets & Chinese Auction Baskets can be purchased between Masses on March 19<sup>th</sup> if not able to attend Craft Show. Needed: Coke, Sprite, Iced Tea, Root Beer, Cream Sodas, bottled water (16.9-ounce size) to be brought to hall by March 19<sup>th</sup>. Help will be needed to set up tables, prep work, etc. on Friday, the 24<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 A.M.-5:00 P.M. Baked Good donations can be brought to the hall Friday at the same time. Polish Food, Baked Goods and Drinks will be sold during the Craft Show. On Saturday morning help will be need at 8:00 A.M. to help unload cars & at 3:00 P.M. to reload cars. All proceeds from the craft show will benefit the church. Please check our Facebook page and share it to invite your family and friends! Any questions, please call Kristen Korenoski --- 412-848-9215. Thank you in advance for all your help and support for the craft show.

**Parish Cemeteries**

The first week of April marks the start of a new season of cemetery care. Please remove any artificial decorations, lights, grave blankets etc. at ground level. Any remaining will be removed and placed behind the equipment shed for pick up. Last year's decorations that are behind the shed will be discarded by the end of March. Please secure anything that you want prior to the last week of March. Decorations that attach to the top of monuments will remain as they do not present a danger to the crew if they are not "unsightly" due to age. Volunteer to help maintain the Parish cemeteries are to contact Tom Popovic, Cemetery Coordinator 724.243.3033. Don't forget to make your cemetery donations this year using the Fair Share Envelopes in April and October.

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J	L	M	M	O	E	M	O	S	S
C	A	S	E	S	S	E	O	M	E

JESUS	PETER	JAMES
JOHN	MOUNTAIN	FACE
SUN	MOSES	ELIJAH
TENTS	CLOUD	SHADOW



**Special Lenten Penitential Service**

Lent is the season we reflect upon our spiritual lives and how we conduct our lives each day. On Friday, March 31<sup>st</sup> at 7:00 P.M. there will be a special Lenten Penitential Service at 7:00 P.M. Plan on attending and make this year truly a Great Lent.

Friday, April 28-Sunday April 30  
St Stephen the Martyr Parish  
Reading, PA

“Ambassadors for Christ”

Interested persons who would like more information and to attend are to contact Fr. Bruce or David Kost.

### **The Word This Week**

Lent is a Season of preparation for the whole Paschal Triduum, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday: not just a time to reflect on the Cross. Often our Lenten devotions can focus exclusively on the Cross, and the idea of Baptism can be lost. This is why the Church invites us to join the disciples in looking beyond the cross this Sunday: we see the glory of Easter, the glory of the resurrection and the glory of the baptized. We see all this in the Transfiguration: we are invited to recognize who Jesus is. It is the glorified Jesus, whom we will celebrate at Easter, who calls us to journey through Lent, just as God called Abram to journey far from his home. So, the readings lead to us acknowledge that Lent is a very special calling, to follow the Lord of glory to the renewal of baptismal purity.

In our First Reading at first glance, this reading seems very brief - almost as if it has little to say. But it is very deep, because we see God (until then unknown by Abram) calling him to give up everything familiar in his life and follow this call of faith into a foreign land. Abram steps out into the unknown, accepting God's call. We are each called by God in baptism - and must renew our journey each Lent. The first part of the journey to membership of the Church is to accept that God is inviting you on a journey from there begins our question, the journey into the family of the Church. This is why we hear of Abram today.

Our second reading takes up the theme of the first reading: “God called us to be holy”, just as he called Abram. He calls us by his grace, which is revealed in the Appearing of Jesus - this is the grace and glory revealed in the Transfiguration. The Transfiguration was for a purpose: Jesus wanted to teach the disciples, through the Law and the prophets, that the promised Christ had first to suffer and so come to the glory of his resurrection. This explains the beginning of Paul's letter: “bear the hardships for the sake of the Good News”. We bear our sufferings, because Jesus has called us to pass through them to resurrection, as he did. This reading really is Good News: proclaim it with confidence!



**The Seven**

**Penitential**

### **Psalms**

During times when we wish to express repentance and especially during Lent, it is customary to pray the seven penitential psalms. The penitential designation of these psalms' dates from the seventh century. Prayerfully reciting these psalms daily will help us to recognize our sinfulness, express our sorrow and ask for God's forgiveness. Each week will be a different Psalm to meditate upon during Lent making our Lenten pilgrimage spiritually fulfilling.

### **Psalm 32**

**Blessed is the one whose fault is removed,  
whose sin is forgiven.**

**Blessed is the man to whom the Lord imputes no guilt,  
in whose spirit is no deceit.**

**Because I kept silent, my bones wasted away;  
I groaned all day long.**

**For day and night your hand was heavy upon me;  
my strength withered as in dry summer heat.**

Sin is inevitable. Because we fall short of the glory of God, because sin abounds in the world—though grace abounds the more! —it is inevitable that we humans fall into sin. But faith tells us sin is not the final word, and the author of this psalm knows that truth well.

The Psalms have endured for millennia because they are so personal and real; sometimes, so real they're raw. They name our experience because they come out of lived experience. The author grasps the deep truth of the old maxim, "Confession is good for the soul." He understands the value of confession

because he first tried to resist it. He hid his faults, sealed his heart and lips and would not speak his sins, but the result was agony and groaning all day. Because he “kept silent,” his “bones wasted away.” Would that we, too, could feel the weight of our sins upon us. Would that they would drive us to our knees so we, too, could experience the grace and the unburdening, the freedom and the joy the psalmist finds at last.

Finally, he says, finally “I declared my sin to you;/ my guilt I did not hide.” And rather than shame or wagging fingers, the psalmist finds relief. Read again the opening line: “Blessed is the one whose fault is removed, / whose sin is forgiven.” Notice that blessing is given not to the blameless or the sinless (they don’t exist!), but to the sinner who, through confession, has had his sin removed. What’s more, in the Bible, the removal of sin removes the *effects* of sin on us. That’s why the psalmist’s frustration, fading enthusiasm, and loss of joy vanish the moment he experiences God’s mercy.

Therefore every loyal person should pray to God, he says, because God longs to shelter us and surrounds us with shouts of joy. But sin remains inevitable. And because we are so often dumb as oxen and stubborn as mules, God admonishes us to be docile and humble, putting our trust in him so he can shower his mercy on us.

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