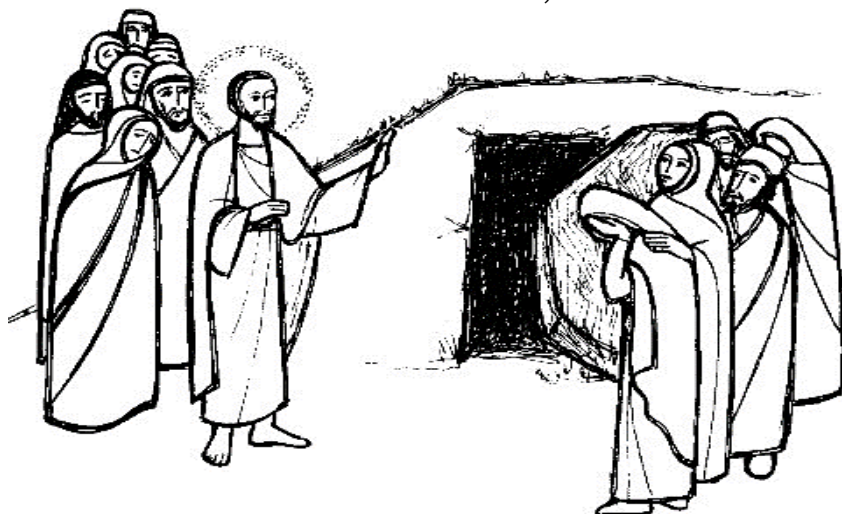


Holy Family Parish  
1921 Eden Park Boulevard  
McKeesport, Pa. 15132  
412.678.0566; 412.276.5562

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

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



Lent 5 Passion Sunday  
March 26, 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 26, 2023

Holy Mass

+**Laura Adamek** Int. Helen Mulac; +**John Trumpe** Int.

Henrietta Albeck.

SOCL

Holy Mass

+ **Ed Kustra** Int. wife Eileen Kustra

### **Passion Sunday**

9:00 A.M.

10:15 A.M.

11:00 A.M.

### Monday, March 27, 2023

Annunciation Bell Choir Rehearsal

6:30 P.M.

### Wednesday, March 29, 2023

Chopin Choir Rehearsal

1:00 P.M.

### Friday, March 31, 2023

Lenten Penitential Service

7:00 P.M.

### Sunday, April 2, 2023

Holy Mass

### **Palm Sunday**

9:00 A.M.

Blessing of Palms and Procession



This coming Friday, there will be a special Lenten Penitential Service at 7:00 P.M. Plan on attending and make this year truly a Great Lent. Let us prepare for Easter.

### **PNU District 5 Branch 132 "Roll Away the Stone of Hunger" Lenten Food Drive**

Today is the final day of the Lenten Food Drive.

Thank you for all your donations. God bless.



### **Craft Show**

Thank you for all the donations and volunteer help in making this spring's craft show a success. Kudos to Kristen and Wanda Korenowski for their coordination of the event for the parish

**INVITE FAMILY AND FRIENDS TO PALM SUNDAY  
AND HOLY WEEK CLEBRATIONS.**



## **Easter Flowers**

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

## **Sunday Worship Change**

During the last Parish Council Meeting, a proposal from several parishioners was made to only have one Mass on Sunday instead of two. The purpose being that combining both Masses, there would be a larger gathering filling the pews. There are pros and cons to such a proposal. It was decided that this proposal be put to a vote by our parish members. A ballot will be available next Sunday and Easter Sunday. The ballot will ask if we should keep the 9:00 A.M. and 11:00 A.M. Masses the way it is or combined both Masses and celebrate Sunday Mass at 10:00 A.M. Preconfirmation classes be at 9:00 A.M. and Adult Classes after Mass. We are not asking for a personal agenda but what would be the best for the parish. This should constitute prayer on your decision and only one vote per person. A ballot box will be in the Narthex.

## **22<sup>nd</sup> National Mission & Evangelism Workshop**

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.

## **Holy Chrism Mass**

Our parish will be hosting this year’s Chrism Mass on Holy Tuesday. This is a special and important Mass with our bishop and diocesan priest. Please make an all-out effort to be in attendance. Invite friends and family. It is a beautiful service. A reception will follow in the Church Hall hosted by the SAMBS and Parish Council. Donation of cookies would be greatly appreciated.



## **The Seven Penitential Psalms**

As we are rapidly approaching the Passion and Death of Jesus, now is the time to express repentance. It is customary to pray the seven penitential psalms. Prayerfully reciting these psalms daily will help us to recognize our sinfulness, express our sorrow and ask for God's forgiveness. This week it is Psalm 102 to meditate upon making our Lenten pilgrimage spiritually fulfilling.

### **Psalm 102**

**Lord, hear my prayer;  
let my cry come to you.  
Do not hide your face from me  
in the day of my distress.  
Turn your ear to me;  
when I call, answer me quickly.  
For my days vanish like smoke;  
my bones burn away as in a furnace.**

We live in more sterile and politically correct times than did the psalmist. Today, heads would wag if we composed such prayers as this that dares tell God what to do. Notice the number of imperatives within the first six lines: "hear my prayer," "let my cry come," "do not hide your face," "turn your ear to me." But the more striking difference between then and now is not the audacity of these verses, but the psalmist's willingness to admit his sin and abandon all excuses. Today, we prefer euphemisms and so "sins" become "mistakes," "indiscretions," "errors," "slip-up," "problems" or what have you. Not so here. The psalmist begs for mercy, and that requires an admission of sin. He begs to be spared the consequences that flow from all his sins, so he can't deny having committed them.

It's said that when he was dying, St. Augustine asked that the Psalms be hung from the wall facing his bed. Famous for his years of flagrant sinning, Augustine sought the comfort of the Psalms as he prepared to meet God face to face. The Psalms ought to give us courage and confidence as we reflect on our own lives and on the struggles, sins, and "enemies" that afflict us. They teach us to plead without restraint, to hold nothing back in begging for God's mercy. I'm "skin and bones," says the psalmist. "I am like a desert owl,/ like an owl among the ruins"

whose mournful cry and solitary life make it the very emblem of desolation. Such talk is not born of arrogance or overconfidence, but from a deep conviction that God is merciful and loves us like a parent.

It will be this compassion that overwhelms the nations and fills them with awe. They will have no choice but to glorify God when they see the marvel of his merciful love. It's that conviction that enables the psalmist to ask that God not end his life too soon and that God let his children and their children stand before him in peace. The psalmist's conviction must be ours. Knowing Jesus also prayed these Psalms, we can make these words our own means of turning to the Lord with passion and sincerity.

### **Cemetery News**

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 and 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.



### **Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser**

hosted by the YMS of R Branch 70

Sunday, April 16th

9 AM until 1 PM

Breakfast includes pancakes, sausage links, fruit cup, coffee, tea, orange juice. Donation \$10 for adults and \$5 for children There will also be a 50/50 raffle (winner need not be present)

## The Word This Week

The Gospel of the Fifth Sunday is perhaps the deepest meditation on the mystery of Baptism and membership of the Church. It is a prelude to the events of Easter Sunday, when we celebrate the triumph of life over death. To be plunged into the waters of baptism is to be buried with Christ, only to rise with him from the waters. This paradox of life and death is the content of today's readings. There is no more important part of our faith than the resurrection: that Christ rose from the dead is the very center and heart of all that we believe - without it, our faith is useless. In the same way our belief in our own resurrection is vital: it is the most deeply needed gift that Christ gives us. This is why the climax of the instructions given to candidates for Baptism was this teaching: that Christ would give them life after death. Saint Peter preaches in the Acts of the Apostles to the crowds what he teaches them is that life comes after death, as it did for Lazarus, and for Christ himself.

When the Lord says "I am going to open your graves" these words really are addressed to us, no matter how chilling they may sound. This is the promise of the resurrection we will explore in Easter - that just as Jesus died and rose again, so - because we are baptized in him - we will die and rise again. This is the doctrine of the Resurrection of the Body which we proclaim in the creed. The promise of life from the grave is our greatest Christian hope.

A	M	A	R	T	A	H	R	A	M
S	I	T	E	E	F	A	L	B	A
R	S	E	Y	A	H	A	E	L	B
E	Y	U	A	T	Z	T	N	M	Y
T	R	O	R	A	H	E	O	S	T
S	A	A	P	A	R	T	T	R	E
I	M	A	N	Y	Z	U	S	U	B
S	U	Y	R	A	E	A	D	U	J
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LAZARUS

BETHANY

SISTERS

MARTHA

MARY

OINTMENT

FEET

BROTHER

JUDAEA

TOMB

STONE

PRAYER

