

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

www.hfpncc.org

Facebook: Holy Family National Catholic Church

Celebrating 100 Years

Fr. Bruce Sleczkowski, Pastor



Septuagesima Sunday Sunday, January 31, 2021

Change of address or phone number, for parish registration, hospital visitations and sacramental needs, baptism, and wedding arrangements (six months in advance), 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

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
Patricia Bagshaw, Youth Ministry 412.953.5123
Tom Popovic, Cemetery Coordinator 724.243.3033
Parish Custodian 412.678.7347

*Masks are to be worn at all times and refrain from
gathering in the vestibule and maintain social
distancing during Mass and Communion,*

Music Scholarship Sunday Today

Help support future musicians in the PNCC by giving generously to the Scholarship Fund. Special envelopes are in the Fair Share packets. Scholarship applications are available on the National United Choirs website www.nucmusicsscholarship.weebly.com Deadline for applying is May 1, 2021.

Condolences

Holy Family Parish expresses its sympathies and love to Don & Joyce Newcamp and Family upon the death of Don's sister Elizabeth Kramer. Eternal rest grant to her O Lord and let the perpetual light shine upon her. May she rest in peace.

Please contact Fr. Bruce to reserve special requiem prayer request for 2021. Call 412.276.5562 or email bsleczkowski@aol.com

This Week

Sunday, January 31, 2021

Septuagesima Sunday

Music Scholarship Sunday

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| Holy Mass | 9:00 A.M. |
| SOCL Classes | 10:15 A.M. |
| Holy Mass | 11:00 A.M. |

Tuesday, February 2, 2021

Presentation of the Lord

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| Mass | 10:00 A.M. |
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Blessing of candles

Sunday, February 7, 2021

Sexagesima Sunday

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| Holy Mass | 9:00 A.M. |
| +Edward Michael Piekielek (14 th Ann) Int. Steffania Piekielek | |
| SOCL Classes | 10:15 A.M. |
| Holy Mass | 11:00 A.M. |
| +Ted Balawajder Int. Bob & Janet Yonek | |

First Reading thoughts: Deuteronomy 18:15-20.

The key to this reading, which links it to the Gospel, is the phrase "...to him you must listen." The people had asked for a prophet - a go-between - in the past. God will surely send one, but the people must take his message seriously. The reading tells us what a prophet is: someone who speaks God's words. This is why they must be heeded. This is quite a difficult reading to proclaim: it has different tones: the voice of Moses, reasoning with the people, and the voice of God, firmly laying down the law about

what the prophet must be. Be very careful with the words the people said at Horeb (“Do not let me hear again...”) Try to carry some sense of their fear - remember, to see the face of God was death for the people of Israel. There is a note of stern finality at the end of the reading (“...that prophet shall die”) Don’t be afraid of it. Simply allow God’s words to be heard.

Second Reading thoughts: 1 Corinthians 7:32-35.

Paul continues his discourse on this passing world, and how Christians are to live in it. He believes that our hearts run the risk of being divided or subverted by the pressures of life in the world; Paul uses as an example married life: we cannot devote ourselves totally - every minute of every day - to the Lord if we also have to please our spouse. We find ourselves “torn two ways”. This may seem very negative, but as Paul says he is “only trying to help”: whatever our state in life, we must never forget the Lord. This reading is very straightforward: Paul presents his example clearly, and in a perfectly balanced way - what is true for men is true for women. So, emphasize the words at the beginning and end: “I would like to see you free from all worry...” and “I say this only to help you...” Don’t worry too much about the deeper meaning of the reading: proclaim Paul’s words clearly and understandably and leave the preaching to the homilist!

Gospel thoughts Mark 2: 1-12

Where does authority come from? Why is one man regarded as a prophet, and another as a lunatic, and a third as a hypocrite? Jesus startles the crowds with a ‘new teaching’ today, but what amazes them so much is not the message but the authority behind it: they are convinced because what he does somehow adds credibility to what he says. It’s the old situation that we are all familiar with - we look through words to see the actions, which show us the real message. The scribes did not heal or work miracles, but simply talked about God. Jesus talks about the Kingdom of God, but also shows the people what it is - a Kingdom where all that damages human happiness is abolished. The other side to this is that we must listen to a prophet or teacher when they are backed by such authority; we may not “harden our hearts” and ignore the message when we have recognized that the messenger is sent by God. This is the hard part, because it demands that we too show, by our actions, that we have heard.

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| Q | O | A | S | E | B | I | R | C | S | TEACH | SCRIBES | UNCLEAN |
| U | M | L | I | C | R | I | A | H | S | SPIRIT | DESTROY | HOLY |
| I | N | U | L | I | R | P | Y | T | R | QUIET | ORDERS | OBEY |
| Y | Q | C | P | O | E | Y | E | A | E | | | |
| O | L | S | L | R | W | A | E | B | D | | | |
| H | H | O | N | E | C | E | R | B | R | | | |
| M | N | A | H | H | A | O | R | A | O | | | |
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