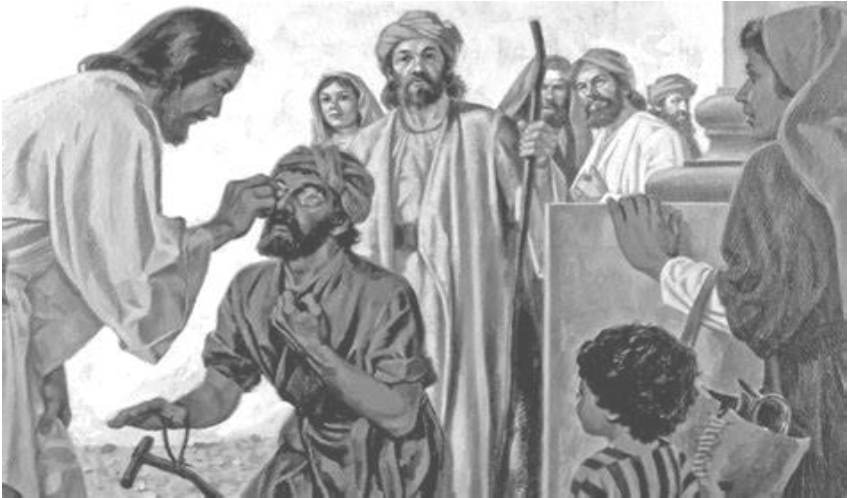


Holy Family Parish
1921 Eden Park Boulevard
McKeesport, Pa. 15132
412.678.0566; 412.276.5562

www.hfpncc.org

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



Lent 4
March 19, 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

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 19, 2023

Lent 4

Holy Mass

9:00 A.M.

Deceased members of the +Fornal, Staniek & Como Families

Int. Steffania Piekielek; **+Dennis Grantz** (1st Ann.) Int. wife

Elaine and Family; **+Josephine Kijowski** (15th Ann.) Int. Dee

Dee & Art Eagan; **+Helen Korch** (9th Ann.) Int. Janet Korch

SOCL

10:15 A.M.

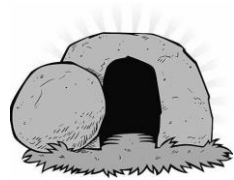
Holy Mass

11:00 A.M.

Monday, March 20, 2023

Annunciation Bell Choir Rehearsal

6:30 P.M.



Wednesday, March 22, 2023

Chopin Choir Rehearsal

1:00 P.M.

Friday, March 24, 2023

Stations of the Cross

7:00 P.M.

Saturday, March 25, 2023

Parish Hall

Craft Show

10:00 A.M.-3:00 P.M.

Sunday, March 26, 2023

Passion Sunday

Holy Mass

9:00 A.M.

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

Henrietta Albeck.

SOCL

10:15 A.M.

Holy Mass

11:00 A.M.

+ Ed Kustra Int. wife Eileen Kustra

PNU District 5 Branch 132
“Roll Away the Stone of Hunger
Lenten Food Drive
Ends Next Sunday

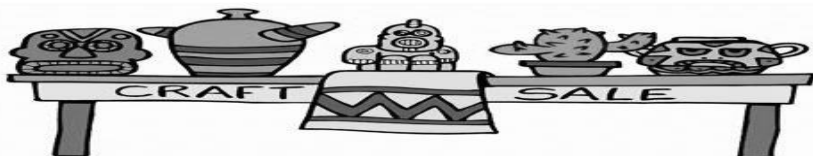
Please bring can or dried food donations to the Church and help roll away the stone of hunger in our community. The Food Drive ends Passion Sunday. Make sure that the dates on the donated food have not expired.

Easter Flowers

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

Spring Craft Show Next Saturday

March 25th from 10:00 A.M.-3:00 P.M.



All Auction baskets and donated beverages should be given today. After Mass, tickets for the Chinese Auction and 50/50 Raffle can be purchased downstairs in the hall. Help will be needed to set up tables, prep work, etc. on Friday, the 24th 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.



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.

Lent is the season we reflect upon our spiritual lives and how we conduct our lives each day. On Friday, March 31st 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.

22nd 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.



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. This week it is Psalm 51 to meditate upon making our Lenten pilgrimage spiritually fulfilling.

Psalm 51

**Have mercy on me, God, in accord with your merciful love;
in your abundant compassion blot out my transgressions.**

**Thoroughly wash away my guilt;
and from my sin cleanse me.**

**For I know my transgressions;
my sin is always before me.**

**Against you, you alone have I sinned;
I have done what is evil in your eyes.**

It is the sentiment King David expresses here that assured his greatness, that set him apart from his predecessor, Saul, and that enables him to stand tall among Israel's great heroes despite the grave sin that sits at the heart of this lament

It begins: “Have mercy on me, God, in accord with your merciful love.” From the start, the speaker, King David, does two things at once: admit his sinfulness and rely on God’s mercy. He doesn’t rely on previous good deeds or on any extenuating circumstances. He is guilty, and he knows only God’s mercy can save him.

David’s sin will have far-reaching consequences. The nation will pay for the crimes of their king just as children often suffer for the sins of their parents, employees for the sins of their bosses, and citizens and parishioners for the sins of their leaders.

David has committed adultery with Bathsheba and covered up his sin by ordering the murder of her husband. The prophet Nathan has confronted him with his crime, so now David has nowhere to hide. But David’s contrast with his royal predecessor is starkly evident. King Saul hadn’t succumbed to temptations of the flesh; he had stopped trusting God. He turned to divination and to mediums, rather than to God, to guarantee his future, so God “repented” of choosing Saul as king. Having lost God’s confidence and hearing of his son’s death, Saul despairs and falls upon his sword.

And then there’s David. Nathan presents David’s own story to him as a hypothetical, asking the king’s judgment. The ploy works and David unwittingly declares his own crimes to be worthy of death. But when he’s identified as the guilty party, David readily admits his guilt and accepts responsibility. And instead of falling on his sword, David falls to his knees and begs God’s mercy. Saul and David both shed light on one of the great truths of Christian faith: God will forgive any sin for which we’re truly sorry. But that’s not really as easy as it sounds. Those who think “It’s not fair that some can sin their whole life through, then say a quick “I’m sorry” on their deathbed and thereby sneak through heaven’s gates!” can take comfort (if such a thing is comfort) in the knowledge that it’s really very difficult to turn our lives around all at once, especially at the very end. Saul couldn’t do it. Fortunately, David didn’t have to because he practiced repentance throughout his life. Deathbed confessions are the exception. The psalms show us the better way: we must recognize our sinfulness and practice repentance throughout life. And if we do, it won’t be hard to say I’m sorry—and to mean it—when we reach the end.

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