

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 1
February 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

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, February 26, 2023

Holy Mass	Lent 1 9:00 A.M.
+Marianne Keith Int. Dennis & Jean Crouch; +Richard Contrella Int. YMSR	
SOCL	10:15 A.M.
Holy Mass	11:00 A.M.

Monday, February 27, 2023

Annunciation Bell Choir Rehearsal	6:30 P.M.
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Wednesday, March 1, 2023

Chopin Choir Rehearsal	1:00 P.M.
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Friday, March 3, 2023

Bitter Lamentations	7:00 P.M.
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Sunday, March 5, 2023

Holy Mass	Lent 2 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.

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.



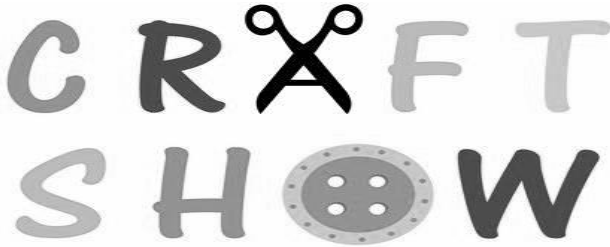
PNU District 5 Branch 132 "Roll Away the Stone of Hunger" Lenten Food Drive

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.

Fraternalism in Action.

The PNU and the PACCF is offering several scholarships and stipends to college and trade school students who are members of the PNU. Applications and Requirements can be found and downloaded at www.pnu.org

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

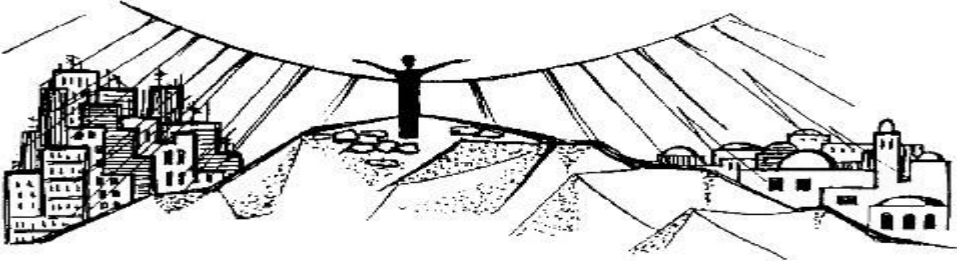


Requested: Chinese Auction Baskets & Lottery Tickets (received by Sunday March 12th) 50/50 Raffle tickets & Chinese Auction Baskets can be purchased between Masses on March 19th if not able to attend Craft Show. Needed: Coke, Sprite, Iced Tea, Root Beer, Cream Sodas, bottled water (16.9-ounce size) to be brought to hall by March 19th. 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. 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.

Jesus fasts for forty days and is tempted.



The Word This Week

In the Cycle of Sunday Readings, the oldest are those of Year A in Lent. These Gospels have accompanied the Church for many centuries. We must realize why: Lent was originally the time of immediate preparation of candidates for Baptism at Easter. Those already baptized used it as a time to prepare for the renewal of Baptismal promises. This is why so much of the Scripture in Lent is about Baptism, New Life and Salvation. What is the new life of Baptism? What are we set free from? What is sin? We begin Lent by hearing about sin and temptation; the Gospel will tell us of Jesus' own temptations, something He shares with us, though he did not sin. The other Scripture readings prepare us for the Gospel, in which Jesus, the new Adam, triumphs over temptation.

Our first reading is telling a story. This story from Genesis will be familiar. The voice of the serpent makes temptation to be attractive! What is emphasized is the "goodness" of the Lord God in the first two paragraphs. When Adam and Eve realize what they have done: the eyes of both were opened and they realized that they were naked. Our second reading is a very complicated reading: Some sentences are very long. For example, there's one very awkward sentence you might decide to read like this: If it is certain that death reigned over everyone as a consequence of one man's fall it is even more certain that one man, Jesus Christ, will cause everyone to reign in life who receives the free gift that he does not deserve of being made righteous. Saint Paul explores the concepts of sin and the justification brought about by the righteousness of Jesus. Paul uses the technique of balancing two ideas: the sin of Adam and the righteousness of Jesus. This reading acts as an important pivot between the story of Adam's sin in the first reading, and Jesus' rejection of sin in the Gospel.

T	S	E	N	O	T	S	E	S	E
E	T	H	U	N	G	R	Y	S	T
Y	T	R	O	F	A	S	T	E	D
P	S	L	E	G	N	A	S	N	E
L	I	A	N	T	A	S	E	R	V
I	L	H	D	E	T	P	M	E	T
V	D	I	S	T	A	L	F	D	I
E	V	I	L	R	S	O	T	L	L
D	S	E	V	A	O	L	O	I	E
T	P	M	E	T	E	W	O	W	L

WILDERNESS

TEMPTED

DEVIL

FASTED

FORTY

HUNGRY

STONES

LOAVES

ANGELS

FOOT

SATAN

WORSHIP



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 6

**Do not reprove me in your anger, Lord,
nor punish me in your wrath.
Have pity on me, Lord, for I am weak;
Heal me, Lord, for my bones are shuddering.
My soul too is shuddering greatly—
and you, Lord, how long ...?
Turn back, Lord, rescue my soul;
save me because of your mercy.
For in death there is no remembrance of you.
Who praises you in Sheol?**

The Psalms stand against the human impulse to merit God’s love and mercy through goodness or obedience. A part of us clings to the naïve notion that God’s love for us is tied to our behavior: good behavior earns God’s love and acceptance; bad behavior means divine rejection. That’s a diabolical lie and the psalmist knows it. Instead, eyes wide open and looking in the mirror, the psalmist readily admits his sin and begs God’s mercy anyway. Sin darkens human vision and alienates the soul from God, self, and others. Sin’s greatest danger is its ability to make us doubt God’s love and willingness to forgive. The psalmist’s saving grace is his refusal to let sin drive that wedge between him and the Lord; in fact, it’s his painful awareness of his sin that draws the psalmist nearer. We often think we can approach God only when we’re “good” and have our lives in order. But it’s sin God rejects, not the sinner. The psalmist knows if we waited for a “worthy” time, we’d never pray. So we don’t defer prayer; we don’t wait till God “is in a better mood.” At work, we might rely on a spike in sales to incline the boss to mercy, but our God has never been that kind of God. Scripture tells us to pray whenever there is the need. And need is greatest when we are mired in sin.

In his mercy, God does not spare us the consequences of sin. To spur our prayer, to draw us closer when we might otherwise sulk or hide, God lets sin impact our lives. Sin’s consequence is not God’s punishment, but the natural result of our decisions that, in his love, God uses for our good (if we let him). The psalmist is well aware that his own sin has brought both physical distress and the attack of enemies into his life. Yet he prays unashamedly. As a child who has disregarded a parent’s injunction to not venture far from home comes running back when the playground bully threatens, the psalmist knows where home is. He knows where to find the strong arms and loving embrace of a God who eventually would send his own Son to save us—not when we were finally worthy, but while we were still steeped in sin.

Easter Flowers

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

