

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  
Celebrating 101 Years of Ministry in McKeesport



Lent 4  
March 27, 2022

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: 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



## This Week

### Sunday, March 27, 2022

**Lent 4**

Holy Mass	9:00 A.M.
+ <b>Agnes Zajdel</b> Int. Ted & Jan Gibala; + <b>Raymond Kostovny</b> Int. wife Barbara Kostovny	
SOCL Classes	10:15 A.M.
Spojnia Branch 132 Annual Meeting	10: 15 A.M.
Holy Mass	11:00 A.M.
+ <b>Josephine Rencewicz</b> Int. SAMBS	

### Monday, March 28, 2022

Annunciation Bell Choir Rehearsal	6:30 P.M.
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### Wednesday, March 30, 2022

Choir Rehearsal	6:00 P.M.
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### Friday, April 1, 2022

Bitter Lamentations	7:00 P.M.
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### Sunday, April 3, 2022

**Passion Sunday**

Holy Mass	9:00 A.M.
+ <b>John Trumpe</b> Int. SAMBS; + <b>Helen Popovic</b> (1 <sup>st</sup> Ann.) Int. Sons and Family	
SOCL Classes	10:15 A.M.
Easter Pisanki Decorating	10: 15 A.M.
Holy Mass	11:00 A.M.

### *PNU District 5 Roll Away the Stone of Hunger*

**Suggested 20 food items needed most:** Applesauce, Canned Beans, Canned Chicken, Canned Fish (tuna and salmon), Canned meats (spam and ham) Canned vegetables, Cooking Oil (Olive and Canola), Crackers, Dried Herbs and spices, Fruit (canned or dried) Granola Bars, Instant Mash Potatoes, Meal in Boxes, Nuts, Pasta, Peanut Butter, Rice, Shelf -stable and powdered Milk, Soup Stew and Chili & Whole Gran Cereal. Please bring the food to the Narthex of the Church. Please bring the food to the Narthex of the Church.

*SAMBS Easter Egg Sale*

*Order forms are available in the Church Vestibule and are due March 30<sup>th</sup> and can be given to Marian Sleczkowski or in collection basket. Eggs can be picked up on Sunday, April 10<sup>th</sup>.*

***Cemetery News from cemetery coordinator Tom Popovic.***

*Spring is coming and the grass will be growing at our parish cemeteries. I ask that ALL ground level artificial decorations be removed by April 1 and be taken home for storage or disposal as we no longer offer refuse removal. Please do not use the dirt bin for disposal as it contaminates the topsoil. Artificial decorations may be placed year-round on the monuments. Live planted flowers are fine and add beauty of the grounds. Flowers will be removed when overtaken by weeds. Again, we could use any assistance as we are getting older and fewer in numbers. Thank You.*

**Parish Pierogi Making and Sale this Week**

**Today is the deadline for orders**

Help will be needed Thursday, March 31<sup>st</sup> & Friday, April 1<sup>st</sup> mornings beginning at 9:00 A.M. This will be a parish only sale, not advertised to the public. Cost \$12 per dozen and there will be a 4-dozen limit per person. Order forms are in the narthex. Contact Carol Burlikowski at carolsburlikowski@gmail.com or call 412-398-0162 for more information. Order pick up will be after 3:00 P.M.

**Ukraine Relief**

The Polish National Catholic Church not only encourages prayer for the people of the Ukraine and is collecting financial donations. Our parishes in Poland are housing many Ukrainian refugees in this time of need. Please designate and make out your checks to Holy Family for the Ukraine relief and in turn the parish will send the collected donations to the National Church Center to be distributed.



***Easter Flower Envelopes are available in the Church Vestibule Make our worship site beautiful with spring flowers.***

## **Pisanki-Easter Egg Decorating**

Next Sunday after the 9:00 A.M. Mass, we will be decorating Easter eggs in the parish hall. This is open to everyone of all ages. Friends are also invited.



## **Condolences**

Holy Family parish extends its love and sympathies to Janet Ghetian and family upon the recent loss of her brother Peter Lotz and to Elaine Grantz and family upon her recent loss of husband, Dennis Grantz. Eternal rest grant to them and may the perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace.

*Available: PNCC Book of Prayer and Devotion are available for \$10.00 each. See Father Bruce. There is a limited supply.*

## **Mass of Chrism**

This year's Mass of Chrism will be celebrated Tuesday, April 12<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 P.M. at the Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Lilly, PA.

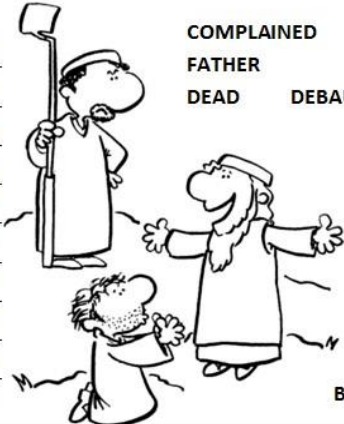
## **The Word This Week**

Today we hear the familiar parable of the Prodigal Son (or the Forgiving Father), the message is Reconciliation - the making new of relationships, the healing of past wrongs and the opening of ourselves to the "new creation". This is just as the Israelites opened themselves to the New Creation of the Promised Land, when under Joshua they ended their sojourn in the wilderness after forty years of hardship and began to eat of the produce of the country. This is significant as the account of the first celebration of Passover in the new Promised Land. It is an important milestone in their history, not just because it relates the greatest feast of Israel, but because on this occasion it marks a transition, from wandering in the wilderness, being fed on the manna, to becoming a settled people in a land of their own, eating the produce of that country.

It is all God's work: it is God who calls us back, and God who welcomes us into the Promised Land of his mercy when we return. Our second reading from Paul is one of those "opposites" readings that Saint Paul is so fond of where two ideas are set up against each other, which he then "plays with" and elaborates. Here his "opposites" are new creation - old creation, sin - goodness, faults -

reconciliation, and the turning point to each of them is Christ. Whenever we have a reading like this, we must understand what he is saying. It does take some time and effort! Paul is trying to describe the New Creation: it is something God has done (in Jesus Christ), by means of reconciliation, which washes away faults. Paul, and all Christians, are ambassadors who announce this New Creation to all. So today, let us think not so much of sin and offences, as the new creation God offers us, if we but turn back to him and embrace him as our Father.

Y	R	E	H	C	U	A	B	E	D
L	R	S	R	E	D	L	E	E	E
L	S	G	D	I	E	F	R	T	N
E	R	I	N	G	A	E	E	S	I
B	K	P	C	A	D	A	H	D	A
U	S	A	M	N	E	U	T	E	L
H	L	I	A	L	S	N	O	S	P
F	N	U	N	K	I	S	R	S	M
E	Q	T	S	A	E	F	B	I	O
S	R	E	H	T	A	F	E	K	C



COMPLAINED  
FATHER  
DEAD

SONS  
LIFE  
DEBAUCHERY  
PIGS  
BELLY  
HUSKS  
KISSED  
CALF  
FEAST  
ELDER  
ANGRY  
BROTHER



Lent is a wonderful time to celebrate the reconciling love and the healing graces our Lord offers us. Like all religious experience, it takes preparation.

Reconciliation is what God does. We prepare for it by opening ourselves up, by reflecting upon the areas of darkness in our lives into which God so deeply desires to shine a light. It might begin with the simple question: Where might God be offering me forgiveness and healing?

If my answer is, "I don't know," then you have some reflection to do. I can examine my life - what I have done and what I have failed to do - and see what graces are offered there. If I've come through that "era" of saying that any guilt, anything that makes me

feel bad about myself, is a bad thing, to be avoided at all costs, then I might have a difficult time coming to genuine sorrow for my sins. If this is the case, I need to "go to work" on my reflection, asking God to rouse a sense of embarrassment, leading to deep sorrow, for any way I may not have been faithful, honest, loving, self-less or generous - in my relationship with God, with my family, with others. I can look at each of my responsibilities - as a citizen of a city and a country and the world, a neighbor, an employee, a member of a parish or congregation, as a parent or a spouse or as a son or daughter. God will always shine light into these important parts of our lives, to help us experience remorse and a genuine desire for forgiveness and healing. The point here is not ultimately to focus on ourselves. God always reveals us to ourselves, so that God might reveal to us our need for a Savior. The focus is on God's reconciling, healing love. As John says, "God showed his love for us when he sent his only Son into the world to give us life. Real love isn't our love for God, but God's love for us. God sent his Son to be the sacrifice by which our sins are forgiven." 1 John 4:9-10

It may be that I have experienced troubling guilt - coming out of deep childhood trauma or a long-standing sense of shame. This may plague my ability to feel good about myself at all, and therefore to be able to reflect upon my sins - the ways I fail at loving. I can still prepare for genuine reconciliation by preparing to better trust God's love for me, based upon two convictions: First, God's love is un-conditional. It is not conditioned on my being better, or my overcoming anything, or even my being good at all. God just loves me. I am always precious in the eyes of the One who made me and desires to embrace me with the gift of complete freedom, in everlasting life. Secondly, God knows everything, including what I'm struggling with or suffering under. And, the God of all compassion, understands me and loves me. It may be that my greatest sin - the place where I need the greatest sorrow and desire for forgiveness and healing is my lack of trust in God's complete and unconditional love for me. We can be certain that that is a gift God deeply desires to offer me.

