

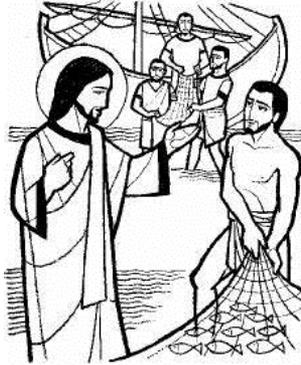
Holy Family Parish  
1921 Eden Park Boulevard  
McKeesport, Pa. 15132  
412.678.0566; 412.276.5562

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

Facebook: Holy Family National Catholic Church

**Celebrating 100 Years**

Fr. Bruce Sleczkowski, Pastor



## Third Sunday Ordinary Time Sunday, January 24, 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](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  
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,*

## This Week

**Sunday, January 24, 2021**

**Ordinary Times 3**

Holy Mass

9:00 A.M.

**+Joann DeBartolo** Int. Karen DeBartolo; +Phillip Kotulsky (8<sup>th</sup> Ann.) Int.

Mildred Kotulsky & Family

SOCL Classes

10:15 A.M.

Holy Mass

11:00 A.M.

**Sunday, January 31, 2021**

**Septuagesima Sunday**

Music Scholarship Sunday

Holy Mass

9:00 A.M.

SOCL Classes

10:15 A.M.

Holy Mass

11:00 A.M.

## Condolences

Holy Family Parish expresses its sympathies and love to Jane Contrella and Family upon the death of husband and father, Richard Contrella. Eternal rest grant to him Lord and let the perpetual light shine upon him. May he rest in peace.

## Music Scholarship Sunday

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.nucmusicscholarship.weebly.com](http://www.nucmusicscholarship.weebly.com) Deadline for applying is May 1, 2021.

*Please contact Fr. Bruce to reserve special requiem prayer request for 2021. Call 412.276.5562 or email [bsleckowski@aol.com](mailto:bsleckowski@aol.com)*

## Pre-Lenten Season

Next Sunday we will begin the period of Pre-Lent. It is the Christian period of preparation before the beginning of the liturgical season of Lent which starts on Septuagesima Sunday, including Sexagesima Sunday, Quinquagesima Sunday (commonly called Shrove Sunday), as well as Shrove Monday, and culminates on Shrove Tuesday, also known as Mardi Gras. The Pre-Lenten season can also be called Shrovetide. During the season it is customary for Christians to ponder what Lenten sacrifices they will make for Lent. Another hallmark of Shrovetide is the opportunity for a last round of

merrymaking associated with Carnival before the start of the somber Lenten season. On the final day of the season, Shrove Tuesday, many traditional Christians, make a special point of self-examination, of considering what wrongs they need to repent, and what amendments of life or areas of spiritual growth they especially need to ask God's help in dealing with. During Pre-Lent, many churches place a basket in the narthex to collect the previous year's Holy Week palm branches that were blessed and distributed on the Palm Sunday and are burned to make the ashes used during the services held on Ash Wednesday.

### Gospel Word Search

"Repent and believe the good news!"

The story of Jonah is meant to make a point - that sometimes we need to repent, and that it isn't impossible to do so. Nineveh was a famously wicked city, and Jonah was understandably reluctant to go anywhere near it with the message of repentance (hence all the business with the whale as he ran away). But when he does go to Nineveh, he is as surprised as anyone that they hear and act on his message. This is a simple story: do not allow the simplicity to blunt the effect of your reading. Think about phrases like "...it took three days to cross it...", imagine what it means, and read accordingly! Save your special emphasis for two important events: the people listening to Jonah ("...and the people of Nineveh believed in God...") and God relenting. These are the keys to the reading and link us to the Gospel where we will hear Jesus preaching repentance as Jonah did. As I preached last

E	B	A	S	W	O	L	L	O	F
D	E	T	S	E	R	R	A	I	L
S	L	E	E	C	L	O	S	E	R
E	I	E	M	A	N	H	F	T	C
E	E	D	A	I	E	T	A	N	A
L	V	E	J	R	T	S	M	E	S
I	E	B	M	D	E	L	W	P	T
L	D	E	Y	O	L	P	M	E	I
A	N	Z	B	O	A	T	S	R	N
G	O	D	O	G	D	N	A	H	G

ARRESTED      GALILEE      GOOD  
 NEWS          HAND          REPENT  
 BELIEVE        CASTING       FOLLOW  
 JAMES          ZEBEDEE      BOAT



Sunday about continuing our discipleship, just as the first disciples of Jesus, we don't have to be overly educated to bring the Good News to those we are in contact with because the Holy Spirit will put His message in our mouths.

From our second reading though, what seems a rather gloomy reading is a lot deeper than might first appear. Paul is not just telling us to wander round with miserable expressions on our faces: he wants us to realize that the world we now inhabit is not the world we will spend eternity in. We should be careful not to pin our hopes on the passing things of this passing world, because that is a path to serious disappointment. The world that is coming will turn everything upside down - those who mourn will have nothing to mourn about, but those who spend all their time enjoying themselves will have nothing to laugh about. Take your time with this reading: it is a list, so you can pause between each of the double items on the list. The first and last words of the reading explain why Paul is talking like this – “our time is short...” and “this world is passing away.” It is important that we hear these words, to make sense of the rest of the reading. Particularly underline the phrase “should not become engrossed in it.” Even though we must live in “the world”, it must not take over all our awareness and take us away from God.

“Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life.” John 5: 24