

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



## Palm Sunday April 2, 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](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



**Pray for Ukraine**

## **This Week**

**Sunday, April 2, 2023**

**Palm Sunday Mass 9:00 A.M.**

*Follow the path of Jesus' triumphantly entering the Holy city of Jerusalem to the chants of Hosanna before His Passion.*

**Holy Tuesday, April 4, 2023**

**Holy Mass of Chrism 7:00 P.M.**

*The clergy of the Diocese in union with the bishop gather to bless the Holy Oils used in the sacramental liturgy of the Church. This special Mass will be celebrated in our Holy Family Parish*

## **PASCHAL TRIDUUM**

**Holy Thursday, April 6, 2023**

**Mass 7:00 P.M.**

*Join together as the Church commemorates the Institution of the Eucharist during the Last Supper, the New Covenant that must be continued till Christ returns, followed with a procession and vesper service at the Altar of Repose. 12 people will be needed to represent the Apostles in the foot washing ceremony.*

**Good Friday, April 7, 2023**

**Liturgies**

**Mass of the Presanctified 12:00 Noon**

**Stations of the Cross/Opening of the Symbolic Grave 3:00 P.M.**

**Bitter Lamentations 7:00 P.M.**

*We gather on this Holy Day of Atonement where Jesus carried the Cross of Redemption. We will venerate the Holy Cross, bless the symbolic grave, and in the evening sing the Passion of the day's event by the grave. Plan on spending time in front of the Blessed Sacrament above the Symbolic Grave during the afternoon.*

**Holy Saturday, April 8, 2023**

**Easter Vigil Service 11:00 A.M.**

*The Lighting of the New Fire, the Blessing of the Paschal Candle and Holy Water set the stage for the Resurrection of our Lord and to our spiritual rebirth. Easter Basket blessings will follow the Vigil Service.*

**Easter Sunday, April 9, 2023**

**Resurrection Mass 9:00 A.M.**

*We process as the Church Triumphant with the resurrection symbols, singing the alleluias, reminding ourselves that we are redeemed and why we gather each Sunday for worship,*

*continuing the Covenant proclaiming Christ our Savior and awaiting His return.*

### **Sunday Worship Change**

During the last Parish Council Meeting, a proposal from several parishioners was made to only have one Mass on Sunday instead of two. The purpose being that combining both Masses, there would be a larger gathering filling the pews. There are pros and cons to such a proposal. It was decided that this proposal be put to a vote by our parish members. Ballots are available in the Church Narthex. Please place an X on your choice. To safeguard that no one votes multiple times, your name will be required and will be confidential. Balloting will begin today and Easter Sunday. The ballot will ask if we should keep the 9:00 A.M. and 11:00 A.M. Masses the way it is or combine both Masses and celebrate Sunday Mass at 10:00 A.M. Preconfirmation classes be at 9:00 A.M. and Adult Classes after Mass. We are not asking for a personal agenda but what would be



the best for the parish. This should constitute prayer on your decision and again only one vote per parishioner.

### **Holy Chrism Mass**

Our parish will be hosting this year's Chrism Mass on Holy Tuesday. This is a special and important Mass with our bishop and diocesan priest. Please make an all-out effort to be in attendance. Invite friends and family. It is a beautiful service. A reception will follow in the Church SAMBS and Donation of cookies would be appreciated.



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### **The Seven Penitential Psalms**

As we celebrate Holy Week, we pray 2 meditations 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 130 and Psalm 143 to meditate upon making the celebration of Easter spiritually fulfilling by our repentance.

### **Psalm 130**

Out of the depths I call to you, Lord;  
Lord, hear my cry!  
May your ears be attentive  
to my cry for mercy.  
If you, Lord, keep account of sins,  
Lord, who can stand?  
But with you is forgiveness  
and so you are revered.

### **Psalm 143**

Lord, hear my prayer;  
in your faithfulness listen to my pleading;  
answer me in your righteousness.  
Do not enter into judgment with your servant;  
before you no one can be just.  
The enemy has pursued my soul;  
he has crushed my life to the ground.

Gifted writers from Oscar Wilde to Alfred Lord Tennyson to Dorothy Parker have used the informal title of this psalm, "*De profundis*," as the title for one of their works. Those two words—the Latin for "Out of the depths"—and the Psalm they symbolize have come to evoke the sense of despondency and emotional torment that poets often feel more keenly than the rest of us. And yet, who among us is unacquainted with the sentiments communicated here? We most often hear this Psalm at times of mourning when we bury our dearly departed. In that context, it expresses our earnest prayer for God's mercy on the deceased, relying on God to toss aside the ledger of the person's sins and judge instead out of his bountiful compassion.

But for centuries the Church has presented this as a preeminent prayer for sinners who feel the weight of the burden they have brought upon themselves, of those who feel like they've sunk to the depths of the sea, a place of chaos and alienation. Imagine yourself engulfed in violent waters, dragged to the bottom amidst

swirling eddies of turgid water with nothing to grasp, no light to find your bearings, sinking ever deeper into cold and murky darkness. That is the premise of this brief Psalm which does overtly what all the Penitential Psalms seek to do, invite us to join the psalmist in turning to the Lord to confess our sins and beg his mercy.

But note that the longer half of the Psalm expresses the psalmist's hope, his stalwart trust in God who is mercy and redemption. The psalmist models the attitude of a sincere penitent: he doesn't deny or hide his sin; he knows God is more mercy than vengeance; he hopes sincerely that dawn will bring the light of mercy, a word of hope, the healing rain of redemption. At the Easter Vigil we sing "*O happy fault; O necessary sin of Adam*" referring to the

trespass that brought about the Incarnation and our merciful salvation in Christ. The words "*O happy fault*" could issue only from the mouth of one who, like the psalmist, understands that where sins abound, grace and mercy abound the more.



### Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser

hosted by the YMS of R Branch 70

Sunday, April 16th

9 AM until 1 PM

Breakfast includes pancakes, sausage links, fruit cup, coffee, tea, orange juice. Donation \$10 for adults and \$5 for children There will also be a 50/50 raffle (winner need not be present)

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## **Easter Flowers**

Memorial Easter Flower Envelopes are still available in the Church Narthex. Please place your donation in the offertory basket.

