

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
Celebrating 101 Years of Ministry in McKeesport



Quinquagesima Sunday
February 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

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, February 27, 2022

Holy Mass 9:00 A.M.
+**Julia Rucinski** (18th Ann.) Int. Allen, Wanda & Kristen Korenoski;
+**Marianne Keith** Int. Cousins Sharon & Marcy Ann.
SOCL Classes 10:15 A.M.
Holy Mass 11:00 A.M.

Quinquagesima Sunday

Monday, February 28, 2022

Annunciation Bell Choir Rehearsal 6:30 P.M.

Wednesday, March 2, 2022

Holy Mass & Distribution of Ashes
Choir Rehearsal
6:00 P.M.
Bitter Lamentations & Distribution of Ashes
7:00 P.M.

Ash Wednesday

10:00 A.M.



Friday, March 4, 2022

Stations of the Cross 7:00 P.M.

Sunday, March 6, 2022

Holy Mass 9:00 A.M.
+**Tim Hreha** Int. Helen Mulac; +**Deacon Raymond Lagesse &**
+**Max Sleczkowski** Int. Lagesse & Sleczkowski Families
SOCL Classes 10:15 A.M.
Holy Mass 11:00 A.M.

Lent 1

PNU District 5 Roll Away the Stone of Hunger Campaign
Spojnia Branch 132, along with all the District 5 branches will be collecting non-perishable food items during this Lenten Season. The food collection will be given to a local McKeesport food bank. The drive begins Ash Wednesday (March 2nd) and will continue to (April 3rd) Passion Sunday. Please bring the food to the Narthex of the Church. **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 and Whole Gran Cereal.

Spring Craft Show

Saturday, March 26, 2022 10:00AM- 3:00PM.

We are asking for Chinese Auction Baskets and/or Lottery Tickets to be donated. Baskets can be given to Kristen on Sunday, March 20 and Lottery Tickets should be received by Sunday, March 13. Polish food, drinks, and baked goods will be available to purchase the day of the show. If you would like to donate any baked goods, you can bring them down starting Friday, March 25, 2022 from 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM, or the morning of the show. Also, if anyone would like to donate drinks to be sold during the event, that would be greatly appreciated. We are looking to sell the following: Cans of Coke, Diet Coke, Root Beer, Cream Soda, Sprite, and Iced Tea. If you would like to donate bottled water, please make sure they are the 16.9-ounce size, so we are able to charge one price for everything. Please have all donated cans of pop and/or bottled water at the church by Sunday, March 20 so we can see what we still need to buy. For those who will not be able to attend the show but would still like to support the event, we will be selling Chinese Auction Tickets and 50/50 Raffle Tickets between masses on Sunday, March 20. We will need help Friday, March 25 from 10:00am - 5:00pm with prep work. In addition, we will need volunteers the day of the show. If you are able to help, please let Kristen know. Thank you in advance for all of your help and support for the craft show. All proceeds from our show will benefit the church. Please remember, when you see the event on Facebook, please share it and invite your family and friends! Any questions, please call Kristen Korenoski -- 412-848-9215.

Great Lent

The holy season of Great Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, March 2, 2022. Holy Mass and Distribution of Ashes will be at 10:00 A.M. Bitter Lamentations and Distribution of Ashes will be at 7:00 P.M.

Lenten Devotions will be held on Fridays

March 4th Stations of the Cross 7:00 P.M.

March 11th Bitter Lamentations Part 2 7:00 P.M.

March 18th Stations of the Cross 7:00 P.M.

March 25th Lenten Penitential Service 7:00 P.M.

April 1st Bitter Lamentations Part 3 7:00 P.M.

April 8th Station of the Cross 7:00 P.M.

Attendance on the Wednesday evening services have been small the past few years. With all the singing and with choir rehearsals following the services ending late, it was requested to have the Lenten Services on Fridays alternating Bitter Lamentations and Stations of the Cross where attendance is better. A special Lenten Penitential Service is scheduled March 25th.

Prime Bishop Anthony Mikovsky 25th Anniversary of Ordination

An invitation has been extended to the parish to celebrate this milestone event. A Holy Mass of Thanksgiving will be celebrated Sunday, April 24th at 4:00 P.M. in the Saint Stanislaus Cathedral, Scranton PA. A Dinner Reception and Banquet will follow in the Youth Center. Reservations are required. Dinner and Banquet \$20.00. RSVP your name and payment to National Church Center PNCC attention Banquet Reservation, 1006 Pittston Avenue,

H	E	A	R	T	P	L	A	I	D
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DISCIPLE
TEACHER
SPLINTER
PLANK
HYPOCRITE
TREE
GRAPES
THORNS
GOODNESS
BADNESS
STORE
HEART



Scranton, PA 18505. Deadline April 1st.

21st Annual Mission & Evangelism Workshop

Friday, April 1st -Sunday, April 3rd

Resurrection Parish, Temperance, MI.

Information and Registration Forms available in the bookrack Deadline for Hotel Registration- March 16th

Deadline for Registration is March 21st.

David Kost is a member of the National Mission and Evangelism Commission, and the workshop is open to all interested people.

The Word This Week

We have many sayings about results being more important than promises, such as “the proof of the pudding is in the eating”. Today’s scripture readings are all about this – the ways in



which our words and actions will reveal who we truly are. There is a wonderful mosaic of poetic wisdom in the readings this Sunday – images and parables and similes that can sit in our heads and hearts and make us think about the sort of people we are, and the words we use and the fruits we produce by them. And we should pray that we will always produce good, sound fruit, so that we may keep on working at the Lord’s work always, and so share in Christ’s victory over death itself.

Our first reading is one of the hardest Old Testament readings you will ever have to proclaim – not because it is long or contains weird and wonderful Old Testament names, but because it condenses some very deep thoughts into some very concentrated poetic images. This is a double chocolate pudding with extra chocolate on top sort of reading! It’s one of those readings that you absolutely must practice out loud beforehand, to make sure you get the phrasing and emphasis right. When reading a list of images, try to picture each one, to get the point of the image in your own mind – this will help you read with understanding. The first line of this reading is typical of this – picture yourself with a sieve in the garden or the kitchen and apply that picture to the idea of our words being what is left behind when we are “sieved” by ordinary human conversation. Notice that there are four points in this reading – our talk, our conversation, our words and our speech. Make sure you separate them out clearly both in your preparation and proclamation.

Which brings us to our second reading. This is one of Saint Paul’s most famous passages, which has inspired hymns and poems and given great consolation to people in times of loss. Treat these words with care and respect. The reading begins with a set of opposites – typical of Saint Paul. He balances mortality with immortality and (which might be a bit of a mouthful) perishability and imperishability. He is talking about the resurrection of the body – the same thing that happened to Jesus on the first Easter Sunday morning. He then goes on to use the word “death” four times, but not in a negative way, simply to explain how Jesus’ victory over death is so complete. This is why, even in the face of death, we “thank God for giving us the victory”. Make sure that your voice is triumphant throughout all this passage. The final paragraph is very

gentle and positive encouragement – bring your voice down a touch and look for a tone of deep encouragement.

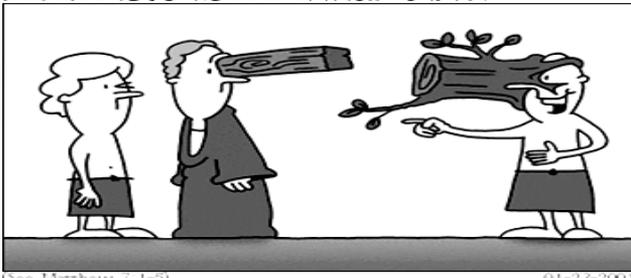
Ash Wednesday

Each year, Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent and is always 46 days before Easter Sunday. Lent is a 40-day season (not counting Sundays) marked by repentance, fasting, reflection, and ultimately celebration. The 40-day period represents Christ's time of temptation in the wilderness, where he fasted and where Satan tempted him. Lent asks believers to set aside a time each year for similar fasting, marking an intentional season of focus on Christ's life, ministry, sacrifice, and resurrection.

Ash Wednesday starts Lent by focusing the Christian's heart on repentance and prayer, usually through personal and communal confession. This happens during a special blessing of ashes prepared by burning palm branches from the previous Palm Sunday.

On Palm Sunday, churches bless and hand out palm branches to the faithful, a reference to the Gospels' account of Jesus' triumphal entry into

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(See Matthew 7:1-5)

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HAH HAH, YOU JUST TOLD HIM THAT HE HAS A SPLINTER IN HIS EYE, AND YOU HAVE A BEAM IN YOURS

Jerusalem, when onlookers lay palm branches on his path.

The ashes of this holiday symbolize two main things: death and repentance. “Ashes are equivalent to dust, and human flesh is composed of dust or clay (Genesis 2:7), and when a human corpse decomposes, it returns to dust or ash.”

“When we come forward to receive ashes on Ash Wednesday, we are saying that we are sorry for our sins, and that we want to use the season of Lent to correct our faults, purify our hearts, control our desires and grow in holiness so we will be prepared to celebrate Easter with great joy”

With this focus on our own mortality and sinfulness, Christians can enter into the Lent season solemnly, while also looking forward in greater anticipation and joy of the message of Easter and Christ’s ultimate victory over sin and death.

Verses to Reflect on for Ash Wednesday

If you’d like to start thinking through and observing Lent and Ash Wednesday, here are a few verses specific to Ash Wednesday to meditate and reflect on.

Our Creation: Genesis 2:7 - Then the LORD God formed a man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being.

Our Curse: Genesis 3:19 - By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food until you return to the ground since from it you were taken; for dust you are and to dust you will return.”

Our Cry of Repentance: Psalm 51:7- 10 - Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow. Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones you have crushed rejoice. Hide your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquity. Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.

Our Cry of Repentance: Ezekiel 9:4 - "Go throughout the city of Jerusalem and put a mark on the foreheads of those who grieve and lament over all the detestable things that are done in it."

Lenten Fasting and Abstinence

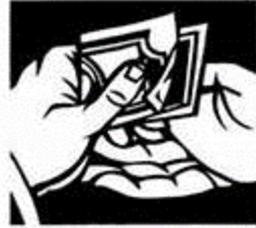
The Polish National Catholic Church still maintains the traditional ritual of fasting and abstinence during Lent. In a self-sacrificial gesture, one may give up something which is enjoyed during the year during the Lenten season. On Wednesdays and Fridays, it is encouraged to abstain from flesh food with only moderate servings. On Ash Wednesday and Good Friday, a fast (only water) can be made or at least one meal be consumed. Those on medication and with dietary needs are exempt.



PRAYER



FASTING



ALMSGIVING

ATTEND LENTEN DEVOTIONS