

**Church of Saint Philip Neri**  
**Pennsburg, PA 18073**  
**March 18, 2018**



**Rev. Robert A. Roncase**, Pastor  
**Deacon Michael J. Franks**  
**Deacon Patrick J. Kennedy**  
**Rev. Edmond J. Speitel**, Pastor Emeritus  
**Rev. John J. Scarcia**, Pastor Emeritus  
**Locke Highleyman**, Business Manager  
**Shirley Misiak**, Office Manager  
**Catherine E. Faust**, Director of Music  
**Wendy Benner**, Coordinator of PREP/Religious ED  
**Joan Lampart**, Coordinator of Parish Outreach  
**Tom Dewees**, Director Catholic Family Life Center  
**Dianne Linden**, Administrative Assistant CFLC  
**Anita Fuhs**, Youth Minister

**Parish Phone Numbers:**

<b>Rectory</b>	215.679.9275
<b>Youth Ministry</b>	267.733.2572
<b>Religious Education/PREP</b>	215.679.7839
<b>Catholic Family Life Center</b>	215.679.2237
<b>Parish Hall</b>	215.679.8116

**Fax Numbers:**

<b>Rectory</b>	215.679.0386
<b>Religious Education/PREP</b>	215.679.8370
<b>Catholic Family Life Center</b>	215.679.8370

**Church & Rectory Address:**

1325 Klinerd Rd; Pennsburg 18073

**Hours:** 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM  
**Email Address:** [ofcmgr@spnparish.org](mailto:ofcmgr@spnparish.org)  
**Website Address:** [www.spnparish.org](http://www.spnparish.org)

**Religious Education Office Summer Hours:**

26 E. Sixth Street, East Greenville, PA 18041  
**Monday & Friday:** Offices are closed  
**Tuesday & Thursday:** 8:00 am – 4:00 pm  
Wednesday: 12:00 pm - 8:00 pm  
**Email address:** [prep@spnparish.org](mailto:prep@spnparish.org)

**Neri Center Address**

575 Main Street, East Greenville, PA 18041

**Catholic Family Life Center Address**

26 E. Sixth Street, East Greenville, PA 18041  
**Email address:** [tdewees@spncflc.org](mailto:tdewees@spncflc.org)  
**Website Address:** [www.catholicfamilylifecenter.com](http://www.catholicfamilylifecenter.com)

**Youth Ministry Office hours: (East Greenville)**

**Tuesday & Thursday:** 9:00 am - 2:00 pm  
**Wednesday:** 2:00 pm - 6:00 pm  
**Email address:** [youthministry@spnparish.org](mailto:youthministry@spnparish.org)

**ROSARY: Prayed in the Chapel**

Monday's at 1:00 PM

**EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION in St. Anne Chapel**

**Monday – Friday:**  
9:00 am - 7:00 PM  
**Saturday:**  
9:00 AM - 4:00 PM

**First Friday's:**

10:00 AM - 7:00 PM followed by Benediction.

**FLORAL ARRANGEMENTS**

For a floral arrangement to be placed at the altar, please call the rectory.

**SUNDAY MASS SCHEDULE**

Saturday – Vigil Mass – 5:00 PM  
Sunday – 7:30 AM; 10:00 AM  
Holy Day Masses as announced

**WEEKDAY MASS SCHEDULE - St. Anne Chapel**

The Chapel is open Monday thru Saturday until 7:00 PM for your visits to the Blessed Sacrament.

Daily Mass is celebrated in the Chapel attached to the rectory:  
Monday's: Communion Service: 8:00 AM  
Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday - 8:00 AM

**CONFESSIONS**

Saturdays: 4:00 – 4:45 PM  
or: at the Rectory BY APPOINTMENT.

**BAPTISMS:** Please call the Rectory to schedule  
2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday Baptisms are held **at** the 10 AM Mass  
3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday Baptisms are held at 11:30 AM

**SPONSORS:** Sponsors for Baptism and Confirmation need to be at least 16 years of age, be baptized and Receive the Sacraments of Communion and Confirmation, attend Mass weekly, and if married, be in a valid Marriage.

**PRE-JORDAN CLASSES**

Call the Rectory Office to schedule.

**MARRIAGES**

Arrangements should be made at least SIX MONTHS before the date of the wedding.

**NEW PARISHIONERS**

Stop by or call the rectory between 9:30 am - 4:30 pm

**SHUT-INS**

Call the Parish Outreach Office.

**SACRAMENT OF THE ANOINTING OF THE SICK**

Call the Rectory Office.

## OUR PARISH MISSION STATEMENT

We are the Catholic Parish Community of St. Philip Neri, answering Christ's call to discipleship through Word, Sacrament and Service. We proclaim God's hope and love to all.

**Station of the Cross and Benediction** will be held every Friday during lent beginning on **Friday, Feb 16<sup>th</sup>** and continuing every Friday thereafter until **Good Friday Mar 30<sup>th</sup>**.

The starting times will alternate each week as listed below, with the services lasting approximately 45-60 min. It is our hope that by altering the starting time, individuals and families will find more opportunities to participate in these services as a way to walk and draw closer to Christ during the Lenten season. Any questions contact the rectory, or see Fr. Roncase, Deacons Mike or Pat.

### **Lent 2018 - Stations of the Cross and Benediction Schedule:**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Services</b>
Friday, Feb 16th	7 -8 PM	Stations & Benediction
Friday, Feb 23rd	3-4 PM	Stations & Benediction
Friday, Mar 2nd	7 -8 PM	Stations & Benediction
Friday, Mar 9th	3-4 PM	Stations & Benediction
Friday, Mar 16th	7 -8 PM	Stations & Benediction
Friday, Mar 23rd	3-4 PM	Stations & Benediction
Friday, Mar 30th	3PM	Out-door Stations (weather permitting)

### **Communion Services during Lent:**

Communion services will be made available in the Chapel during the Lenten season beginning on Thursday Feb 15<sup>th</sup>, continuing each day Monday through Friday, with the last service **ending on Wed Mar 28<sup>th</sup>**. The starting times will vary with the day, whereas, on **Monday, Wednesday, and Fridays**, services will begin at **6:30 AM** (morning); and on **Tuesday and Thursdays**, services will begin at **4:30 PM** (afternoon). Duration of the services are expected to last approx. 20 min. Any questions contact the rectory or see Fr. Roncase, Deacons Mike or Pat.

### **Serving at Mass** **Extraordinary Ministers**

5:00 pm – Dawn Ellis  
Bob Ellis  
Priest  
Deacon  
Catherine Cahill  
Lee Johnson

7:30 am – Barbara Jaruszewski  
Mary R. Giambrone  
Priest  
Deacon  
Chuck Rodgers  
Mary Weber

10:00 am – Amanda Charlton  
Dawn McCausland  
Priest  
Deacon  
Kevin Charlton  
Maryanne Charlton

### **March 25** **Lectors**

L. Franks  
C. Highleyman

R. Leidy  
C. Mullaney

T. Benner  
W. Benner

### **FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT** **March 18, 2018**

Monday, March 19, Saint Joseph – spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary

9:00 AM – 7:00 PM - Adoration in the Chapel  
6:30 AM – Communion Service

Tuesday, March 20

8:00 AM – Beverly Latshaw, (Rita Latshaw)  
9:00 AM - 7:00 pm - Adoration in the Chapel  
4:30 PM – Communion Service

Wednesday, March 21

6:30 AM – Communion Service  
8:00 AM – Theresa Proietto,  
(Jessica, Joe, Mia & Charlie Gillespie)  
9:00 am - 7:00 pm - Adoration in the Chapel

Thursday, March 22

8:00 am – Mike Metzinger,  
(SPN Holy Rosary Mass attendees)  
4:30 pm – Communion Service  
9:00 AM – 7:00 PM - Adoration in the Chapel

Friday, March 23

6:30 am – Communion Service  
8:00 am – Dorothy S. Peters,  
(Bob & Marianne Peters)  
9:00 am - 7:00 pm - Adoration in the Chapel  
3:00 pm – Stations of the Cross

Saturday, March 24, Blessed Oscar Romero  
10:00 am - 4:00 pm - Adoration in the Chapel  
5:00 pm - 6<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, Nickolaus Caputo,  
(Jean Caputo & family)

### **Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord**

**March 25, 2018**

7:30 am - Anna McArdle, (Joan Lampart)  
10:00 am - For the Living & Deceased Members  
of the Parish.

### **WE INVITE YOUR PRAYERS**

For the sick, those in hospitals, nursing homes, also for their caregivers; and all those we hold close in our hearts.

Please pray in particular for:  
**Mary Fisher; Jenny Josko and Michael Quigley.**

For those who have died, and in particular for **Richard Dieckhoff, Erna Miklos, Barbara Schwind, & Clara Smith**, grant them eternal rest and peace.

### **PARISH NEWS**

#### **SAINT PHILIP NERI**

#### **AT LARGE PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS**

Welcome any questions or comments you may have.

Tony Bauer: [ajbauer337@gmail.com](mailto:ajbauer337@gmail.com)

Ray Carr: [bigdaddy2530@gmail.com](mailto:bigdaddy2530@gmail.com)

Kevin Charlton: [mpcharlton@comcast.net](mailto:mpcharlton@comcast.net)

Matthew Fuhs: [matthew.fuhs@comcast.net](mailto:matthew.fuhs@comcast.net)

Karen Katrinak: [karenkat1@verizon.net](mailto:karenkat1@verizon.net)

Theresa Walker: [cheg1978@comcast.net](mailto:cheg1978@comcast.net)

#### **CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS: 2017**

Any parishioner requesting a copy of their contribution statement for 2017, call the rectory office between 10:00 AM and 4:00 PM or email to: [ofcmgr@spnparish.org](mailto:ofcmgr@spnparish.org). Statements are mailed upon request only.

### **HOUSE BLESSINGS**

House Blessings can be arranged by calling or emailing Shirley Misiak at the rectory during business hours, Monday thru Friday (9:30 AM - 4:30 PM) (215.679.9275) or email to: [ofcmgr@spnparish.org](mailto:ofcmgr@spnparish.org) to make a request.

The request will then be recorded and then forwarded to one of the Deacons who will follow up with a phone call to schedule a visit.

### **SUNDAY COLLECTIONS**

March 12, 2017	March 11, 2018
Envelopes: \$ 4,941.00	\$ 5,073.00
Online: 1,856.00	1,752.00
Loose: 982.00	723.00
Children: 64.00	44.00
Total: \$7,843.00	\$7,592.00
Latin America	\$ 711.00

### **SPECIAL SUNDAY COLLECTIONS:**

**March 2018**

For those who do not receive Sunday collection envelopes or if you are an on-line giver, the following special collections are:

**Easter Flowers, Rice Bowl, Palm Sunday, Good Friday, Latin America & 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.**

### **PARISH IMPROVEMENTS**

In response to parishioner's inquiries, if you would like to make a donation to a specific project being considered by the Church, please put your check or cash in an envelope and place the project you want to donate to on the front of the envelope and put it in the Sunday collection or drop off at the Rectory.

Your dollars will be put towards your specific project. The top four (4) projects currently being looked into are:

1. New Church Roof
2. New Church AC
3. Repaving Church Parking Lot
4. Refurbishing of Church Organ

## **HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE 2018**

Palm Sunday (March 25)

Easter Sunday (April 1)

### **March 24 - Saturday**

Confessions in Church:

3:30 PM – 4:45 PM

### **March 25 - Palm Sunday**

Vigil: 5:00 pm

Palm Sunday: 7:30 am

10:00 am

### **March 26 - Monday**

6:30 am - Communion Service in Chapel

5:00 pm - Mass in Chapel

Confessions in Church:

7:00 pm - 8:30 pm

### **March 27 - Tuesday**

6:30 am - Communion Service in Chapel

8:00 am - Mass in Chapel

Confessions in Church:

7:00 pm - 8:30 pm

### **March 28 - Wednesday**

6:30 am - Communion Service in Chapel

8:00 am - Mass in Chapel

### **March 29 - Holy Thursday**

No Communion Service or morning Mass

7:00 pm - Mass of the Lord's Supper - Church

NO Adoration

### **March 30 - Good Friday**

No Mass today – No Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament.

Chapel open until 3:00 PM for Adoration without Exposition.

7:00 pm - Reading of the Passion,  
Veneration of the Cross and Holy Communion  
in Church

### **March 31 - Holy Saturday**

No Morning Mass or Adoration

10:00 am - Decorating the Church for Easter

12:00 pm - Blessing of Easter Food

7:00 pm - Easter Vigil Mass

### **April 1 - Easter Sunday**

7:30 am - Mass in Church

10:00 am - Mass in Church

## **Liturgical Ministers needed for:**

### **HOLY WEEK/EASTER VIGIL**

We are in need of Youth Altar Servers, Lectors and Eucharistic Ministers for the Triduum Services:

\*Holy Thursday Mass of Last Supper:  
March 29 at 7:00PM

\*Good Friday Passion Service:  
March 30 at 7:00PM

\*Holy Saturday Easter Vigil:  
March 31 at 7:00PM

Contact Deacon Mike Franks to let him know of your availability. He can be reached at: 484.919.9603 or [deaconmikefranks@verizon.net](mailto:deaconmikefranks@verizon.net).

The Holy Week Schedule will be posted in Church the weekend of March 24/25. Additional information will be presented during the announcements at the Sunday Masses.

Easter Sunday Masses will be assigned as usual in the next Liturgical Ministers Schedule which will be available by mid-March.

### **CLEANING THE CHURCH FOR EASTER**

Can you spare a few hours? We are going to be cleaning the Church for Easter on Tuesday, March 27<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 AM immediately following morning Mass.

If you are interested, call or email the Rectory Office (215.679.9275) between 10AM & 4PM or email: [ofcmgr@spnparish.org](mailto:ofcmgr@spnparish.org).

### **Give a St. Philip Neri Memorial Gift!**

For a donation of \$35 or more, there is a beautiful Folder recording the gift and donor to be presented to the family.

In memory of **Anna Hoffman**; requested by:  
Carol Bradley, Ken, Jeanette Miller & Children,  
Jim & Amy Dykie.

In memory of **Barbara Schwind**; requested by:  
Carol Bradley, Kitty Heebner, Pete & Linda  
Frank, Joan Mullaney.

We also have Living Memorials for those special occasions in life.

### **Second Quarter Greeter Schedules**

Available for pickup in small room off vestibule.

## **EARLY TRANSMISSION SCHEUDLE**

Bulletin announcements for Easter Sunday, April 1<sup>st</sup>, must be submitted to the rectory office no later than **Monday, March 19<sup>th</sup>**.

## **SPN CHURCH HOAGIE SALE**

Tuesday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>

CHEESE, HAM, ITALIAN or TURKEY

12:00 NOON – 6:00 PM

Orders are to be placed by March 27<sup>th</sup>.

Call Rita: 215.679.7009

## **SPN SENIOR CLUB TRIP**

The bus trip scheduled for Monday, April 9<sup>th</sup> to the Atlantic City Resorts Casino has been **cancelled** due to a lack of interest.

## **SPN CATHOLIC FAMILY LIFE CENTER**



### **UPCOMING EVENTS:**

**Registration required for ALL programs.**

#### **Tuesday – March 20<sup>th</sup>.**

American Saints – Servant of God Edward J. Flanagan, one of Msgr. Flanagan’s greatest accomplishments was establishing “Boys Town” in Omaha, Nebraska – for homeless and neglected boys. **Please note time: 6PM-9PM** for a video presentation and discussion of this great American being considered for Sainthood! Cost is FREE.

**NOTE: SOLD OUT – WARREN COUNTY SPRING WINERY TRAIN TRIP for Saturday, May 12.**

### **JOYFUL HEART LOUNGE AND LIBRARY –**

All DVD Blu-Ray movies previously shown on Friday evenings and Saturday afternoons are available to rent out for free! Also check out our periodicals and magazines. Hours are Tues/Wed/Thurs 8:30 am – 2:00 pm and Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri from 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm.

### **EASTER EGG HUNT**

Saturday – March 24

10:00 AM SHARP

RAINE OR SHINE!!

Ages 1 – 11 years

SPN Parish Church grounds

A reminder to all parents: you are responsible to bring and pick up your children.

## **SPN SENIOR CLUB CALENDAR 2018**

March 28:

Third Anniversary Luncheon:

Wearin’ of the Green

April 9:

Bus Trip to Atlantic City Casino

April 25:

Luncheon

Speaker: Dr. Stephen Eiss on Aging Eyes

May 23:

Luncheon

Mother’s & Father’s Day Celebration

June 27:

Lunch

Maintaining Physical Balance – David Brewer

July 10:

Bus Trip to Atlantic City Casino

July 25:

Senior Club Luncheon –

Life Long Learning – Eliza Mann

August 20:

Bus Trip to Hunterdon Hills Playhouse –  
“Nun sense”

August 22:

Luncheon

Speaker: Kevin Crilley – Green Lane Park:  
“Then and Now”

September 26:

Luncheon

“Navigating the Government Systems for  
Senior Services”

October 11:

Bus trip to Penn’s Peak:

“An afternoon with Dolly & Kenny”

October 24:

Luncheon/Halloween Party

November 14:

\*Luncheon:

Honoring our Veterans – Missing Man

November 30:

Bus Trip to American Music Theatre:

“The First Noel”

December 19:

\*Luncheon:

St. Mary’s School/Children’s Choir



**DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY**  
**April 8, 2018**  
**3:00 PM in church**

The message of Divine Mercy is that God is merciful. He is love itself poured out for us, and He wants no one to escape that merciful love. God wants us to turn to Him with trust and repentance while it is still a time of mercy . . . Turning to and imploring God's mercy is the answer to the troubled world.

Jesus requested Saint Faustina that the Sunday after Easter be officially established in the church as the Feast of Mercy: "On that day, the very depths of my tender mercy are open. I pour out a whole ocean of graces upon those souls who approach the fount of My Mercy." (Diary, 699)

Call Dawn Ellis: 215.679.2160 for any questions.

**SPN SENIOR CLUB NEWS**

The SPN Senior Club held its monthly Luncheon on February 28<sup>th</sup> with 117 members in attendance.

The Birthday winner was Ceil Kirkwood; door prize winner: Madeleine Gehringer - 50/50 winner: Gus Morano.

A big THANK YOU to all who volunteered to make this a successful event! Please call with your reservation by March 23 for the next Luncheon; see Flyer in Bulletin.

**Friendly Visitor/Martha Ministry Meeting**

There will be a combined meeting with Friendly Visitor and Martha Ministry on Wednesday, April 4<sup>th</sup> in the Rectory Meeting Room beginning at 1PM. Any questions, call Joan Lampart - Parish Outreach Coordinator: 215.679.9275.

**PARISH BREAKFAST**

Our parish Breakfast was held March 11<sup>th</sup> with 312 people in attendance.

There were three winners for a FREE Breakfast: Kevin Bush, Matt Peterson and Brad Stull.

The next breakfast is April 8<sup>th</sup>; save the date!

**RESPECT LIFE MINISTRY**

Respect Life Ministry committee will meet on Monday, March 26<sup>th</sup> at 7PM in the rectory meeting room. Questions: call Mark Nunan at: 610.754.7185 or [marknunan@dejazzd.com](mailto:marknunan@dejazzd.com).

**ARCHDIOCESAN NEWS**

**Are You Called to Be a Deacon?**

**Archdiocese of Philadelphia**

**Minister of the Word • Minister at the Altar •  
Minister of Charity**

While all the baptized are called to share in the mission of Jesus Christ according to the gifts of the Holy Spirit, those who are ordained also offer service in a way proper to the Sacrament of Holy Orders. A deacon's ministry entails proclaiming, preaching and teaching God's Word, assisting the bishop and priest at the Liturgy, assisting at funerals, ministering to the sick and dying, leading the community in prayer and in sacramental liturgies, baptizing, witnessing marriages, and exercising administrative leadership in the Church. ***A permanent deacon, who may be married, is a member of the clergy and shares in the hierarchy of the Sacrament of Holy Orders.*** Through the Sacrament of Holy Orders, the deacon is configured to Christ the Servant. It is Christ the Servant who acts through the ministry of the deacon.

***Want to Learn More...*** We invite Catholic men (*and their wives if married*) with a deep spiritual life who are between the ages of 29 and 55, and would like to discern a call to serve Jesus Christ and His Church within the Archdiocese of Philadelphia as permanent deacons to take the next step and contact us for more information and to register for the upcoming Permanent Diaconate Information Night.

**2018 Permanent Diaconate Information Night**

**Thursday - April 19: 7:00 PM - 9:00PM**

**Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary - Vianney Auditorium**  
Registration for this event is required. Please email the following information to Laura Nimmons at [lnimmons@archphila.org](mailto:lnimmons@archphila.org)

• Name • Address • Age • Parish • Email • Marital Status • If married, wife's name•

**The Annual Archdiocesan Mass honoring the Gifts of Persons with Disabilities, the Deaf Community, Family, Friends and Caregivers** is Saturday, March 24 at 10:30 AM at the Cathedral Basilica of SS Peter and Paul. Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, OFM Cap., will be the principal celebrant and homilist. There will be a reception immediately following the Mass featuring entertainment by Santino Dragon New Year Brigad. Go to [www.opdarchphilly.org](http://www.opdarchphilly.org)

**Spring Contact Meeting for the Office for Persons with Disabilities** - April 28. The Workshop will consider how to foster active participation in worship for children with disabilities and their families. The disability contact/advocate for each parish is asked to attend. Clergy, parish staff, parents and other parish volunteers are welcome to attend. Go to [www.opdarchphilly.org](http://www.opdarchphilly.org)

**Mother of Children with Disabilities Retreat:** Tuesday, May 1 at Malvern Retreat House, Sr. Suzanne Mayer IHM will direct a retreat for mothers and grandmothers who are raising children with disabilities and also those who have adult children with disabilities. There will be time to pray, reflect, and chat with other mothers. Go to [www.opdarchphilly.org](http://www.opdarchphilly.org) to register.

### **AREA SCHOOL NEWS**

**Saint Aloysius Parish School - Pottstown  
Grades PreK3 thru 8th Grade**

**REGISTRATION IS OPEN TO NEW FAMILIES**

Saint Aloysius Parish School has opened registration to new families for the 2018-2019 School year. Our school offers an education for students beginning at 3 years old in our PreK3 program thru 8th grade. You are invited to schedule a guided tour by calling the main office at 610-326-6167.

For more information about Saint Aloysius Parish School please visit the school website at: [www.saintaloyssiusschool.com](http://www.saintaloyssiusschool.com).

Noteworthy: The cost of Saint Aloysius Parish School Pre-K program is much more cost effective than area daycare. The average price of daycare per day is \$40.00 while a Saint Aloysius education for Pre-K3 and Pre-K4 is \$25.00 or less.

**Registration is on a first come, first served basis.**

**METANOIA ([metanoiayoungadults@gmail.com](mailto:metanoiayoungadults@gmail.com))**

Tuesday, March 20:  
Theology on Tap at Appalachian Brewing Company  
Doors open 7:00PM; talks at 7:30PM

Tuesday, March 27: Holy Hour  
Holy Hour @ Mary, Mother of the Redeemer Parish  
in North Wales at 7:30 PM.

## **PENN FOUNDATION Behavioral Health Services**

Understanding Autism: Tips and Tools for  
Being an inclusive House of Worship

Individuals with autism and their families have unique needs.

Learn and share more about what it means to have autism and how you can provide a supportive worship environment.

**Tuesday, April 10**

**8:00 AM | Breakfast and fellowship**

**8:30 AM | Presentation**

**Saint John's United Church of Christ**

**500 W. Main Street | Lansdale**

**RSVP by April 3 to:**

**Debra Ryan -**

**Director of Community Outreach**

**215-453-5165 or:**

**[dryan@pennfoundation.org](mailto:dryan@pennfoundation.org)**

**Mass for those suffering from Addiction**

**Saturday - April 21**

**Sacred Heart Church**

**Royersford PA**

**Mass at 11:00 AM**

**All are invited.**

**Addiction has touched far too many families and taken far too many of our loved ones. Join us that we may draw strength from one another in the power of our faith.**

I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me. (Philippians 4:13)



Invest just five minutes a day, and your faith will deepen and grow—a day at a time.

**Sunday, Mar 18, 2018**

**FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT; THIRD SCRUTINY OF THE ELECT**

**Yes, we can!**

Maybe it feels like something's holding you back: lack of education or funds, past decisions or old wounds, complicated relationships or too many responsibilities. But in the big picture, only two things impede our liberty: sin and death. If we could get beyond those two, we walk into perfect freedom. The good news is, we can! In today's Scrutiny, we celebrate how the "death-dealing" power of evil gives way to the "life-giving sacraments" that make it possible for us to walk free of every episode of death. What binds you? Jesus is calling you to freedom.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Ezekiel 37:12-14; Romans 8:8-11; John 11:1-45 (34)*. "O my people, I will open your graves and have you rise from them."

**Monday, Mar 19, 2018**

**SOLEMNITY OF JOSEPH, HUSBAND OF MARY**

**Seek some fatherly advice**

Jesus taught his disciples to pray "Our Father . . . ." We are blessed in the name of the Trinity: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Saint Joseph, the husband of Mary, was a generous and strong father who always put the well-being of Mary and Jesus first. He stands as an inspiration for parents, and he points to the kind of parental love God has for us. He is also a powerful intercessor. Catholics call Saint Joseph the patron saint of the entire church.

Pray to Joseph today in your own words for the wisdom and courage to care for the people and responsibilities in your charge.

TODAY'S READINGS: *2 Samuel 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16; Romans 4:13, 16-18, 22; Matthew 1:16, 18-21, 24a or Luke 2:41-51a (543)*. "Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?"

**Tuesday, Mar 20, 2018**

**LENTEN WEEKDAY**

**Integrity is the best calling card**

There are countless guides on how to write the perfect résumé. Nearly all suggest that you include lots of credentials and personal referrals of influential people. After all, it's who you know and what qualifications you bring to the table that matter, right? On the other hand, what would a prophet's *curriculum vitae* look like? Here we are seeing a different kind of *vita*, where personal integrity carries the day. In the gospel the Pharisees want to see a traditional résumé of Jesus, but many people believed in Jesus based on the power of his witness. Listen carefully to what Jesus is saying and do your best to honor it in your own life.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Numbers 21:4-9; John 8:21-30 (252)*. "Because he spoke this way, many came to believe in him."

**Wednesday, Mar 21, 2018**

**LENTEN WEEKDAY**

**God's got nothing to prove**

W. C. Fields used to exclaim in his films, "Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego!" No doubt Fields enjoyed using these exotic biblical names as an expression, but behind them are three actual characters from Hebrew scripture. The Babylonian king had commanded them to worship the statue of a god or face immediate execution. Their response was an interesting one. Of course they wouldn't bow down, and if God saved them, so be it. But if not, they *still* wouldn't deny their God.



Now that's faith—both the willingness to give up their lives but also their affirmation that God did not have to prove anything to deserve their trust. Faith does not begin with what God will do for you if you believe. It starts with believing because God is God.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Daniel 3:14-20, 91-92, 95; John 8:31-42 (253)*. "Jesus then said to those . . . who believed in him, 'If you remain in my word, you will truly be my disciples.' "

**Thursday, Mar 22, 2018**

**LENTEN WEEKDAY**

**How well do you know God?**

"How well do you know me?" quizzes—with questions like, "What's my favorite band/movie/song/video game? Where would I most like to be? Who are my heroes?"—have long been lighthearted ways to test or strengthen friendships. With Lent particularly set aside for repentance and renewal, it's a good time to take a "how well do you know God" quiz. Ask yourself: Based on scripture and tradition, what do I know to be God's likes and dislikes? Who are the people with whom God has found favor? Where am I likely to find God? Your search for answers will no doubt test and, let's hope, strengthen your friendship with God.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Genesis 17:3-9; John 8:51-59 (254)*. "Jesus answered, ' . . . You do not know him, but I know him.' "

**Friday, Mar 23, 2018**

**MEMORIAL OF TURIBIUS OF MOGROVEJO,  
BISHOP; DAY OF ABSTINENCE**

**Timely advice**

"Turibius the Tireless" could be the nickname of today's saint. As a Spanish missionary and later bishop in 16th-century colonial Peru, he traversed a 176,000-square-mile diocese—three times—to attend to those in his charge. His favorite saying is one we do well to keep in mind: "Time is not our

own, and we must give a strict account of it." Keep a simple time log for a week, and you'll learn something about your priorities. You might be surprised by how much time is frittered away. Not that down-time is all bad, mind you—relaxing and recreating are also part of God's plan. But keep in mind that time is a non-renewable resource. How will you spend your precious allotment?

TODAY'S READINGS: *Jeremiah 20:10-13; John 10:31-42 (255)*. "Many there began to believe in him."

**Saturday, Mar 24, 2018**

**LENTEN WEEKDAY**

**Be the voice of the voiceless**

Each year, on March 24, the International Day for the Right to the Truth Concerning Gross Human Rights Violations and for the Dignity of Victims is observed. This annual observance pays tribute to the memory of Monsignor Óscar Arnulfo Romero, who was martyred on this date in 1980. Archbishop Romero was actively engaged in denouncing violations of the human rights of the most vulnerable individuals in El Salvador. "Each one of you has to be God's microphone. Each one of you has to be a messenger, a prophet." These fateful words of Romero speak of what it means to be a person of faith. Faith must be lived out. Romero preached the gospel by how he lived. His life broadcast the Good News, calling others to lives of holiness and humility. Your life can speak volumes, too; it's simply a matter of letting God make of you a microphone.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Ezekiel 37:21-28; John 11:45-56 (256)*. "He prophesied that Jesus was going to die for the nation."



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