St. Polycarp Church
55 Ransom Lane, Smyrna, Delaware 19977
www.saintpolycarp.org

2nd Sunday of Lent

Baptism: Pre-Baptismal class is required. Arrangements are to be made in advance by contacting the parish office.

Marriage: Arrangements must be made at least one year prior to the date. Contact the parish office.

Anointing of the Sick: Contact the parish office.


RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults): RCIA is for adults who are in need of Baptism, who were baptized in another Christian tradition who desire to become Catholic, or who were baptized Catholic and desire First Eucharist and /or Confirmation. For more information contact Deacon Frank at (302) 653-8279 or DeaconFrank@saintpolycarp.org

WELCOME VISITORS & NEW PARISHIONERS!

We’re glad you’re here!

Please contact the office or visit our website to register in our Parish.
Dear People of God,

I hope and pray that all is well with you and your loved ones during this holy season of Lent!

This year there were two major changes in our liturgy on Ash Wednesday. Did you notice both of them?

Most people were aware of the difference in the manner that ashes were distributed. Some expressed concern when they first heard of how we would be entering into the ancient tradition of sprinkling ashes on the crown of the head. Yet, after experiencing the custom of our Universal Church, I have heard nothing but praise for the wisdom of this tradition. Repeatedly, I have been asked, "Can we do it that way next year?". (You’ll have to come back to find out.)

The other major change was more subtle. Most folks didn’t even notice it! It was the omission of one word in the doxology of the Collect prayers. Previously, this opening prayer concluded with the phrase “in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever”. (You’ll have to come back to find out.)

At the direction of the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments, the Bishops of our country issued this change to correct an inaccurate translation of the venerable texts. There is no mention of “one” in the original Latin. Further, this word is not found in other translations into the various languages around the globe. Therefore, the closing of the orations will now be ... “in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever”.

This second change in the liturgy, like the first that I mentioned, brings us in closer union to the rest of the Universal Church. All of the other English speaking Episcopal Conferences have previously implemented the change. Further, this phraseology is also used in the opening prayers of many of the Collect prayers at other liturgical rites. These also should reflect the proper translation.

While the publishers of our Ritual books have been informed of this change, it will be some time before new Liturgical books can be available. Until that point, the celebrant must remember to implement the directive. Please be patient and kind, especially to our visiting clergy, in this regard.

May God continue to bless us with new insights into the faith in our Lenten journey!

STATIONS OF THE CROSS
FRIDAYS AT 7pm
Live-streamed
Stations of the Cross will take place on Fridays during Lent at 7 pm in the Church. Come join the parish community as we reflect on Jesus’ passion and suffering as His immense love for each one of us. (Stations at St. Dennis Fridays at 5 pm.)

FRIDAYS IN LENT
Fridays during Lent are obligatory days of abstinence. The norms concerning abstinence from meat are binding upon members of the Roman Catholic Church from age 14 onwards.

RECONCILIATION
Saturdays - 2:30 to 3:30 pm
Sundays - following 10:30 am Mass on February 28, March 7, 14, 21 & 28
DAILY MASS
Masses will NOT be celebrated on Mondays, Thursdays, and Fridays through the first week of March. 8:30 am Mass will be celebrated on Tuesday and Wednesday mornings. Thank you for your understanding and please continue to pray for vocations!

LET US PRAY

Mass Intentions for the week

Saturday, February 27
4 pm Parishioners
Sunday, February 28 2nd Sunday of Lent
10:30 Trudy Kasubinski - Walter Kasubinski
Monday, March 1
NO MASS
Tuesday, March 2
8:30 am Michael Ciccarelli - Larry & Kathy Borgman
Wednesday, March 3
8:30 am Christine Voorde St. Katharine Drexel - Larry & Kathy Borgman
Thursday, March 4
8:30 am St. Casimir
Friday, March 5
8:30 am NO MASS
Saturday, March 6
4 pm Vincent Ucciferri - Healing Intention Janet Anderson
Sunday, March 7 3rd Sunday of Lent
10:30 Blessed Virgin Mary Sodality

Bread & Wine for the Eucharist are given in prayer for an increase in religious vocations.

Our Sanctuary Lamp in Church burns in prayer for those effected by the recent winter storms.

We Pray for Our Sick and Those In Need of our Prayers
To have someone’s name added to the Bulletin for prayers, please email submission@saintpolycarp.org or call the office and leave a message. Names will remain on the prayer list for six weeks unless other arrangements have been requested.

Carol Donahue, Bishop Malooly, Mark Kennedy, Ben Walters, Angel Street, Bill Stuart, Sue Orlando, Violet Farkas, Richard Razzano, Michelle Dean, Austin & Dylan Dean, Theresa Devine, Kenny Bullins, Deirdre Moor, Linda Blow, Deacon Charlie Robinson, and all those suffering from Covid-19.

We Pray for our Deceased
Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord
And let the perpetual light shine upon them.
May the souls of all the faithful departed,
through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen

All Live Stream from St. Polycarp can be viewed at https://www.youtube.com/c/StPolycarpSmyrnaDE or visit www.saintpolycarp.org and click on the picture of the altar.

Prayer Chain – To request prayers or to be part of our Prayer Chain, contact Laverne at laverne427@icloud.com or (302) 653 - 8064

Rosary by Telephone: Join us Tuesday mornings at 10am as the Brother Vincent Columbiettes lead us in praying the rosary. Contact Jill at (302)653-3836 or jll_mercer@yahoo.com for more information.

Flame of Love Rosary By Telephone: Join us weekly on Thursdays at 6:30 p.m. to pray the Flame of Love Rosary. Email Roxanne at roxsmb@gmail.com or leave a message or text (302)242-6484 for details.

Connected In Christ: Join us on Zoom every Friday at 11:00 am to discuss various topics of faith. Contact Peggy at peggvo52@aol.com for information and links to the sessions.

LITURGY

Blessings
The Blessing of All Prayer Groups will take place the weekend of March 6th and 7th at both the 4:00 pm Mass and the 10:30 am Mass.

Thinking Catholic!
From time to time, we hear or read words that are often used in our Catholic Faith, yet we never fully understand their meaning. As space in the Bulletin allows, we’ll review a few words or terms to help you better understand these words. Hopefully, this will help you increase your Catholic vocabulary! Keep learning!

Let’s look at some of the words in today’s Pastor’s Pen:

Collect: Also known (in the English-language liturgical books) as the “Opening Prayer”, a formal prayer, usually addressed to the Father, through the Son, in the Holy Spirit, by which the assemble is prepared for the Liturgy of the Word.” (You probably thought of something much different when you heard the word “collect” at Church!)

Doxology (dahk-SAH-uh-gee): Giving praise or glory to God in the liturgy. Traditionally, the Gloria at Mass has been called the greater doxology, while the prayer “Glory be to the Father...” is known as the lesser doxology. (Greek doxologia, from doxa: glory and logos: word)

Episcopal Conference: A pastoral body or grouping of all bishops of a given territory with statutes approved by the Holy See.
Lent is the season that prepares us for the celebration of Easter. We fast, pray, give alms, and perform acts of penance with the intent of turning away from our sins and turning back to God. Sin distances us from God: we do that. God doesn’t distance himself from us. In fact, God wants so much for us to return to him that Jesus left us a sacrament to be the instrument of his forgiveness once he left the earth. Sins committed after baptism are forgiven in the Sacrament of Reconciliation, though the absolution of a priest.

Why do we need this sacrament? Why can’t we just confess to God in prayer? Here are five reasons for taking advantage of this great sacrament:

1. Jesus intended it this way. He entrusted his healing action to his apostles and their successors through the priesthood. Jesus willed that the Church, in the power of the Holy Spirit, continue his work of healing and salvation in the world,
2. We learn a lesson in humility when we tell our sins to a priest. (Conveniently avoided when we confess to God through private prayer, and we all avoid humbling experiences!) In enumerating our sins aloud, we also face them squarely.
3. We receive sacramental grace in addition to the forgiveness of sin. This grace is power to withstand temptation.
4. The priest’s words of absolution are assurance that our sins are forgiven. How much more powerful to actually hear them than to just have a subjective “feeling” of forgiveness.
5. We can benefit from the sound advice and instruction from the confessor.

During these weeks of Lent, as we seek physical healing and prevention from the Covid-19 virus, we should be even more intentional about seeking medicine for our soul, and the Sacrament of Reconciliation is the medicine that brings us Christ’s “healing” grace and mercy.

HAS IT BEEN A REALLY LONG TIME SINCE YOU WENT TO CONFESSION? JUST GO!
Always remember that Fr. Jim will help you through this Great Sacrament of Mercy. Don’t stay away because you forget the “how to”. Examine your conscience and bring your desire to be forgiven! Come renew & strengthen your soul!

Consider helping St. Polycarp’s Parish & Family Life! We are looking for volunteers to help us with events in the Community such as the Smyrna/Clayton Town Parades. At some time, events will begin again and in the meantime, we need to get new ideas and plans together! We cannot make such events possible without enough assistance from our Parishioners. Please contact Deanna Lail at 302-535-2957 or email dlail14@comcast.net if you are interested. Thank you!

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS UPDATE
Our meetings continue to be virtual. No activities have been scheduled at this time, but we remain hopeful and look forward to the day when we can once again resume our pancake breakfasts and other activities.

A contribution was sent to St. Jude’s and two contributions to Little Sisters of the Poor in memory of deceased members, including Msgr. Martin. The council also contributed $500 to the parish to help defray the cost of snow removal/salting. We collected $290 for the Polar Bear Plunge, and the Brother Vincent Council made up the difference to send $400 to Special Olympics. Thank you to all parishioners who help make this possible.

We are also planning a special Easter Egg Hunt activity for our parish children. Additional information will be released soon, and we are hoping that all the children in the parish will participate.

Our participation in the Stones Faith Garden is already underway.

We continue to extend the invitation for all practical Catholic gentleman to join the Knights of Columbus. It remains a rewarding experience. For more information contact Tom O’Drain, 659-5317 or odrain709@comcast.net
STONES FAITH GARDEN
Have you thought about the stone that you will paint for our Stone Faith Garden? What message will describe how God worked in you throughout the pandemic. Make this part of your Lenten journey.

We will be providing guidance and suggestions on the best practices of rock painting to ensure that our Community Offered Vision Inspired by the Disease STONES FAITH GARDEN endures the test of time. Visit https://saintpolycarp.org/pastoral-letter-february-2021/ to read more. We're counting on everyone to participate!

LITANY OF ST. JOSEPH
Joseph of Nazareth, bless those who minister to unwed mothers - Inspire us to minister.
Joseph of Nazareth, protect those who seek a lost child - Inspire us to protect.
Joseph of Nazareth, care for those raising independent teenagers - Inspire us to care.
Joseph of Nazareth, befriend those who are friends of illegal aliens - Inspire us to befriend.
Joseph of Nazareth, encourage those who desire fatherhood - Inspire us to encourage.
Joseph of Nazareth, strengthen those who advocate family life - Inspire us to strengthen.
Joseph of Nazareth, sustain those who are believers in God’s dreams - Inspire us to sustain.
Joseph of Nazareth, reverence those who are obedient to God’s plans - Inspire us to reverence.
Joseph of Nazareth, guide those who desire intimacy with God - Inspire us to guide.
Joseph of Nazareth, nourish those who hunger for peace - Inspire us to nourish.

Composed by Fr. Paul Mast and shared with us during this Year of Saint Joseph. This is the second of four stanzas. http://paulmast.com/Litanies.html

ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL
Have you heard the news? It was the generosity of our parishioners that St. Polycarp Church was able to exceed the goal in the 2020 Annual Catholic Appeal. Because of your generosity, we will be receiving half of the money made above the goal, $882.50! This money will be used toward projects which directly impact our parish. You are true examples of living a life of stewardship.

COLLECTIONS
Second Collection next weekend is for the Church in Latin America. For many in this area, a rising secular culture, difficult terrain and a shortage of ministers all present obstacles to practicing the faith. Your support for this collection provides lay leadership training, catechesis, priestly and religious formation and other programs to share our Catholic faith.

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Note: eGiving figures are reported twice a month.

Thank you to all those who continue to send in their envelopes and for those who have enrolled in eGiving. Thank you for your generosity and continued stewardship.

Please consider becoming an e-giver. It is easy to make your weekly or one time contributions in support of the Parish. For more information and to sign up for online giving, visit faith.direct/DE831.

Fifty-Fifty! Play often! Proceeds benefit PSR.
Our 50/50 winner is pulled monthly! Place $1 in an envelope and mark 50/50 on the envelope along with your NAME and phone number. Place the envelope in the collection baskets or drop off in the drop box. If you want to play more often, just put in whatever amount you like and we will enter you once a week for each dollar you send in!

THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH
All meetings/events are virtual unless otherwise noted. Our Parish Office remains closed at this time.
https://saintpolycarp.org/calendar/

Saturday, February 27
2:30 pm Confession

Sunday, February 28
9 am PSR Grs. P/K - 4 (Lesson Posted)
Following 10:30 am Mass - Confessions

Monday, March 1
11:30 am Sodality
6:30 pm RCIA Sessions (Virtual)

Tuesday, March 2
10 am Columbiettes Rosary (phone)
7 pm Grs. 5 & 6 (Virtual)
7:30 pm Knights of Columbus 4th Degree
7:30 pm PSR Grs. 7 & 8 (Virtual)

Wednesday, March 3
9 am St. Vincent dePaul
6 pm Pastoral Council Executive Committee

Thursday, March 4
6:30 pm Flame of Love Rosary (phone)
7 pm Knights of Columbus Business Meeting

Friday, March 5
11 am Connected in Christ Zoom Meeting
7 pm Stations of the Cross (Church)

Saturday, March 6
9 am Confirmation Retreat
2:30 pm Confession (Church)
4 pm Blessing of all Prayer Groups

www.saintpolycarp.org