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NEWSLETTER

MARCH

2015



WHEN YOU ARE IN TRIBULATION, AND ALL THESE THINGS COME UPON YOU IN THE LATTER DAYS, YOU WILL RETURN TO THE LORD YOUR GOD AND OBEY HIS VOICE, FOR THE LORD YOUR GOD IS A MERCIFUL GOD

Do you ever mess up? Of course we all do, some of us a little bit almost every day. Our mess-ups can range from a mistake in preparing a recipe, or forgetting something at the store, to the things we do that hurt ourselves and others. That's sin, the things that displease God and cause us to regret.

Sin is defined as the times when we choose to go our own way, when we ignore godly advice and worship ourselves over God's plan for us.

Moses exhorted the Israelites to follow God's plan, to heed His commands and live in obedience. They were to turn away from what they wanted, from the sin of self-idolatry - making their way greater than God's way. Moses warned them that failing God would bring terrible consequences - they would be conquered, driven out of the land, scattered, and only a small remnant would survive. Did they listen? NO! They messed-up anyway.

Lent calls us to reflect on our mess-ups. In our Lenten penitential

service we prayerfully recognize that Jesus comes to rummage through our messes with us. He helps us to recognize them, turn way from them, and then picks us up and out of our messes. That's true healing.

God's word spoken through Moses tells us that when we mess-up and are in trouble, when we run away, we can recover by returning to God. If we return to Him with all our heart, as the Prophet Joel tells us, we will find the Lord, our God - *gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.* Praise God!

With Easter right around the corner we consider our return to God. Will we come back and worship Him with all our hearts and follow His will? If we do, we will find God, the Forgiver of the unforgivable, and the Lover of the unlovable. Even if we mess up again in our good intentions to be faithful, God will still welcome us. No matter what wilderness we find ourselves in, Jesus' arms are open wide and He will welcome us home.

Join us for everything Easter

We so look forward to seeing you this Lent as we join together in fellowship as we pray, sacrifice, fast, increase our charity, and forgive.

Passiontide starts March 22nd. March 29th is Palm Sunday marking the start of Holy Week. See our Holy week

schedule in this Newsletter. We reach the highpoint of the year's joy on Easter Sunday, April 5th with our Resurrection service at 8am - a glorious time in the life of faith, our faith community, and the Holy Church.

Walk with Jesus in the days and weeks leading up to Easter so as to rejoice with Him in His resurrection.

Cross Walk



The second annual Good Friday Cross Walk in the Mont Pleasant neighborhood is scheduled for Friday, April 3rd, (rain date Sat., April 4th) beginning at 10



a.m. at Holy Name of Jesus and ending at the hosting church, The Bridge Christian Church, 735 Crane Street, around noon. The walk itinerary will also include New Creation in Christ Ministry and Saint Adalbert's R.C. Church. A short message by each pastor will be given at each church. Refreshments will be served at The Bridge Christian Church afterward. All church members and the public, are invited to join the Cross Walk and to pray along with the walkers, who will take turns carrying a full-size Cross adorned with a Crown of Thorns.

"A.D. THE BIBLE CONTINUES" ON NBC

From executive producers Roma Downey ("The Bible") and Mark Burnett ("The Bible," "The Voice") comes an uplifting spiritual journey through the later chapters of biblical history. "A.D. The Bible Continues" picks up where the smash hit miniseries "The Bible" left off, continuing the greatest story ever told and exploring the exciting and inspiring events that followed the Crucifixion of Christ.

The immediate aftermath of Christ's death had a massive impact on his disciples, his mother, Mary, and key political and religious leaders of the era, completely altering the entire world in an instant. Beginning at that fateful moment of the Crucifixion and the Resurrection, "A.D. The Bible Continues" will focus

on the disciples who had to go forward and spread the teachings of Christ to a world dominated by political unrest, and the start of a whole new religion that would dramatically reshape the history of the world.

Watch along with us starting Easter Sunday at 9pm on WNYT and for the next 11 episodes on Sundays and take inspiration - we too can be faithful and strong disciples in the face of a world that tells us we are wrong.

Outrageous Valentine's Raffle Winners!!!

Congratulations to all who won in our Outrageous Valentine's Raffle. At the time of this writing we still have six more winners to draw.

Congratulations so far to: Adam Konicki, Linda Bakhose, Tracy Olsen, Fr. Dennis Ruda, Ariel Dopp, Ceil Gibbons, Joanne Bauer, Larry Panfil, Don Ingoldsby, Jarod Wilson, Cheryl Green, Nicholas Dominy, Tammy VanAvery, Nicole Napier, Tyler Panfil, Fr. Jim Konicki, Jacelyn Shuhart, Cathy Matta, Joe Ruchalski, Fran Lamb, Dan Nash, and Courtney Carroll.

Thank you to those who re-donated their winnings as a special blessing. We have raised about \$1,800 for our youth programs.

Please Help

Basket Social - April 12th



B is for Basket

It is time to get ready for our annual basket social to be held April 12th. We really need your help to make this year's Social

a success. Can you donate a basket, or two, or three? They don't have to be huge - anything will do. Through your love and charity we are able to touch the lives of others and maintain a vibrant faith community. Need ideas - check out Pinterest: <http://pinterest.com/cmck1953/basket-party-ideas/>

Pierogi Anyone?

The parish has pierogi (\$7/dz.) and golumbki (made to order for \$3 ea. or \$25/dz.) available for purchase. Orders will be ready for pickup on Palm Sunday, March 29th from 11-1:30. Please contact Stephanie at 518-369-1346 or 518-512-3030 to place your order.

Milestones to Celebrate:

Birthdays

9 Rebecca Kopec, Marianna Zemken
12 Frederick James
13 Christopher Maliszewski
14 Paul Zebrowski Sr., Deborah Kusek
16 Steven James
18 Justyne Rios
19 Justin Smith, Stanley Podkulski, Danielle DeMidio
21 Susie Spooner, Gary Podbielski, Matthew Zembrzuski
23 Erin Pross
24 Amber Houser
26 Elizabeth Battaglia, Nylyse Rios, Sarah Limmer
27 Skyler Dee
28 Frances Pawlowski, Lilianna Kalnaus
30 Susan Malinowski

i thank
the Lord
for you.
happy
birthday!

Wishing you all many years!

Thank you, Merci, Dziękuję, Āčiū, Gracias, Mahalo, Grazie!

To all who attended our annual meeting. You honor the sacrifice of our ancestors who built this democratic model of Church and keep their hope alive by your participation. We are dedicating this year to recognizing the abundant life we have in Jesus.

Congratulations to all those elected to parish offices and our special thanks to those who served in any way over the past year. A special thank you to Bob and Stephanie for

preparing a wonderful breakfast that day.

Thank you for your Souper Bowl Sunday generosity. \$125 was collected and donated locally.

Thank you to our wonderful altar servers, our organist and choir director Liz Battaglia, and to Ed Bertasso for his ministry of hospitality.

To every parishioner, visitor, and member -- you are a blessing and a treasure. Thank you!!!

Need Rental Space?

Family gathering, a party, meetings? Check out our Parish Hall. Discounted rental rates are available to parishioners.

YEAR OF RENEWAL

The Church's 24th Holy Synod took time in prayer, reflection and visioning breakout sessions to chart a course for the future direction of our Holy Church.

2015 has been designated: "**A Year of Regeneration**".

The five themes the Synod determined for our future direction are:

- Growth and Membership
- Increase Spirituality
- Lifelong Learning
- Sacred Vocations
- Community Involvement and Presence

The first of this many step process is an Action Plan for all PNCC Parishes.

We have already implemented many parts of this action plan and we need to continue our diligent work to implement the remainder, finding new and innovative ways of sharing the Gospel and presence of Christ with others through our National Catholic Church. We are taking the message of the Gospel out into our local community and NEED YOUR HELP.

The components of the 2015 action plan include:

1. Developing a Universal Welcome Package (done).
2. Greater Understanding of Church Solemnities – Brotherly Love 2015 (underway)
3. A Lenten Day of Retreat - to be held March 7th at All Saints Parish in Rome, NY - JOIN IN.
4. Implementing a Commissioning Services (underway)
5. Online Education Course for Clergy (underway)
6. Database of PNCC Males for Sacred Vocations (underway)
7. Pamphlet for Humble Shepherds 2015 (underway)
8. Completion of at least two community service projects (underway)

Provide your name and E-mail address to the Church's Renewal Subcommittee at

FutureDirection@pncc.org to receive information about the Action plan, reports of how things are going, and the important role you can play in the Future Direction of YOUR Church.

Also, please reach out to friends and family, let them know about this effort, invite them to come to church or come back to church. We want to reconnect to as many people as possible and provide a way for them to keep in touch.

Directed Giving for Lent:

2nd Week of Lent, Mar. 1-6, VEGGIE MANIA Canned Corn, Canned Peas, Canned Beans, Canned Potatoes, Canned Sweet Potatoes.

3rd Week of Lent, Mar. 7-14, DINNER IS SERVED Canned Beef Stew, Canned Pork and Beans, Instant Potatoes/Stuffing Mix, Macaroni and Cheese, Spaghetti or other Pasta, Canned Spaghetti Sauce.

4th Week of Lent, Mar. 15-21, SCHOOL NEEDS Pencils and Pens, Folders and Notebooks, Crayons, Tape and Elmer's Glue.

Passion Week, Mar. 22-28, BABY MAKES THREE Disposable Diapers, Baby Wipes, Liquid Formula, Jars of Baby Food.

Holy Week, Mar 29-Apr. 4, SPECIAL NEEDS DIET Low Sodium Soups, Canned Fruit in Juices (not syrup), Canned Tuna in Water, Low Sodium Crackers, Natural Applesauce.

SOCL News and Confirmation

Be sure to bring your children for School of Christian living classes. Our youngest ones have story time and we are starting a First Communion class. Classes are available for adults who have not yet made their confirmation. To make one's confirmation, a student must be at least 14 years old and of sufficient maturity to grasp the adult commitment needed.

Planning For:

● **Every Friday in Lent - Stations of the Cross at 7pm**

- Mar. 1: 2nd Sunday of Lent, **Friend Sunday**, Holy Mass at 10am, Breakfast, Annual Budget Meeting.
- Mar. 7: Seniorate Lenten Retreat, All Saints Parish, Rome, NY at 10am
- Mar. 8: Solemnity of the Institution of the PNCC. Daylight Savings Time begins. Holy Mass at 9:30 and 11:30am
- Mar. 15: 4th Sunday of Lent, Holy Mass at 9:30 and 11:30am, Free Lunch on Sunday
- Mar. 19: Solemnity - St. Joseph
- Mar. 22: Passion Sunday Holy Mass at 9:30 and 11:30am
- Mar. 29: Palm Sunday, Holy Mass at 9:30 and 11:30am
- Mar. 31: Holy Mass of Chrism (Cathedral in Scranton)

- Apr. 2: Maundy Thursday, Holy Mass, Procession, Stripping of the Altars, 7pm
- Apr. 3: Good Friday, Cross Walk at 10am, Private Devotions at 2pm, Bitter Lamentations at 3pm, Liturgy of the Presanctified and Opening of the Tomb at 7pm
- Apr. 4: Holy Saturday, Liturgy of New Fire, Renewal of Baptismal Promises, Blessing of Easter Baskets, 4pm
- Apr. 5: Solemnity of the Resurrection/Easter, Holy Mass at 8am and 10am
- Apr. 12: Low Sunday, Holy Mass at 9:30 and 11:30am, Basket Social

Parish Organizations and Ministries

Did you know that our Parish has many organizations that need you? God calls us to work together for the good of our community, in support of each other, and for the needs of the Church. We have a particular need for altar servers and lectors. Please see Fr. Jim.

SEASON OF LENT



Lent is the time to increase our prayer, sacrifice, fasting, charity, and forgiveness.

With this in mind, the parish offers the Lenten Devotion of

Stations of the Cross every Friday at 7pm.

Remember too that the Holy Church asks us to fast and abstain from meat every Wednesday and Friday in Lent and from Holy Wednesday through Holy Saturday. This practice helps us to remember Jesus' sacrifice every time we sit down to eat a meal. If we can't give up something as simple as a ham sandwich, how can we fight heavier temptation? Now is the time to train with the easy stuff (but it seems so hard) so we can better fight the really tough things that try to draw us away from Jesus.

I hope and pray each of us will use these very special days to the greatest possible good.

SOLEMNITY OF THE INSTITUTION

This year the Solemnity of the Institution of the Polish National Catholic Church falls on Sunday, March 8th. During this Year of Renewal let us remember and pray for those who built our Holy Church which is pristinely Catholic and democratic. Let us pray especially for renewal, regeneration, and growth as we commemorate the 118th anniversary of the organization of our Holy Church.

Church Questions for the Month

What is Passiontide, and why don't we read the Passion on Passion Sunday?

Passion Sunday (the First Sunday of Passiontide/the Fifth Sunday of Lent) marks the beginning of a two-week-long period known as Passiontide. In short, Passion Sunday marks the beginning of more intensive period of Lenten reflection, penance, fasting, and preparation. The images in church (statues, crucifixes, paintings) are covered in purple. The doxology (*Glory be to the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit etc.*) is not said and is replaced with the phrase "*Lord for us Your wounds were suffered. Oh, Christ Jesus, have mercy on us.*" While we might think that the Passion narratives from the Gospels should be read on Passion Sunday, they are not.

The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ from one of the synoptic Gospels (Matthew (Cycle A), Mark (Cycle B), or Luke (Cycle C)) is read every Palm Sunday (the Second Sunday of Passiontide/Sixth Sunday of Lent).

The Passion itself is the short final period in the life of Jesus covering his visit to Jerusalem and leading to his execution by crucifixion.

Since the Passion begins with Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem and since Palm Sunday marks that moment as well as the start of Holy Week, it is fitting that we begin the week by placing all that the Lord did for us in the front of our minds. The reading of the Passion helps us do

that.

What's with the Oils?

During Holy Week the Bishop ordinary of each Diocese blesses Holy Oils at Holy Mass. This is referred to as the Holy Mass of Chrism.

The Holy Mass of Chrism is held on Holy Tuesday in the Central Diocese. During this Holy Mass, the priests, deacons, and representatives of the entire diocesan community gather around our Bishop, who blesses Holy Oils for use in the coming year.

These are the:

- Oil of the Sick - used in Sacrament of the Sick/Unction to bring the healing power of Christ to those in need.
- Oil of Catechumens - used at Baptism, to strengthen and purify candidates before baptizing with water, and
- Sacred Chrism - is a mixture of olive oil and balsam fragrance. It is used to anoint the newly baptized, for confirmation, and to anoint the hands of priests and the heads of bishops at their ordination, as well as in the rites of anointing during the dedication of certain church vessels like chalices, churches, and altars.

Whenever the Holy Oils are used in a diocese, the ministry of the Bishop who consecrated them is symbolically present.








In a special way, the Holy Mass of Chrism reminds us of our oneness in

Christ through Baptism and its holy anointing, made possible by the ministry of the Bishop and his priests. The Holy Mass of Chrism is also a key moment in which the unity of the Bishop with his priests (together, they form the presbyterate) is manifested and renewed. Deacons and priests may also renew their vow of obedience to their Bishop and their commitment to serve God's people. At the end of the Holy Mass of Chrism, the Holy Oils are brought back to parishes of the diocese for use in the coming year.

Lenten Retreat

Lenten Retreats in parishes and Seniorates all over the country and Canada are scheduled for this season. The retreats are only one of eight initiatives set forward by this past national Synod for *"each and every parishioner to play a role in bringing about a renewed and active spiritual life in the parishes and in the entire Church"* as Prime Bishop Anthony wrote in January's God's Field. Our Mohawk Valley Seniorate will conduct its Lenten Retreat on Saturday, March 7th at All Saints Parish, 801 Hickory Street in Rome, NY from 10am to 2:30pm. All our parishioners are strongly encouraged to participate in this national and international effort for a program built around the theme: Return to Me with Your Whole Heart. There is no charge for this spiritual exercise.

March 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 2nd Sunday of Lent/ Friend Sunday – Holy Mass 10am. Lector: Marilyn Hietala/Claudia Bertasso Also: Breakfast, Annual Budget Meeting	2	3	 4 Commemoration of St. Casimir	5	 6	7 Seniorate Lenten Retreat at All Saints Parish, Rome, NY starting at 10am
8 Solemnity of the Institution of the PNCC - Holy Mass, 9:30am & 11:30am Lector: Larry Panfil/Claudia Bertasso Also: Parish Committee REMINDER: Day Light Savings Starts	9	10	 11	12	 13 Stations of the Cross 7pm	14
15 4th Sunday of Lent- Holy Mass, 9:30am & 11:30am Lector: Marilyn Hietala/Claudia Bertasso Free Lunch on Sunday	16	17	 18	19 Solemnity – St. Joseph, Spouse of the B.V.M.	 20 Stations of the Cross 7pm.	21
22 Passion Sunday - Holy Mass, 9:30am & 11:30am Lector: Larry Panfil/Claudia Bertasso	23	24 Feast – St. Gabriel, Archangel	 25 Solemnity – Annunciation of the B.V.M.	26	 27 Stations of the Cross 7pm	28
29 Palm Sunday - Holy Mass, 9:30am & 11:30am Lector: Marilyn Hietala/Claudia Bertasso	Holy Monday	30 Holy Tuesday Holy Mass of Chrism (Cathedral in Scranton)	31			

EVENTS

April Events:

- 4/2 - Maundy Thursday, Holy Mass at 7pm
- 4/3 - Good Friday, Cross Walk at 10am, Bitter Lamentations at 3pm, Liturgy of the Presanctified and Opening of the tomb at 7pm
- 4/4 – Holy Saturday, Liturgies at 4pm
- **4/5 – Solemnity of the Resurrection/Easter, Holy Mass at 8am and 10am**
- 4/6 - Low Sunday, Basket Social

Basket Social! Only a few weeks left to get those wonderful baskets together for our April 12th event.