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# **NEWSLETTER**

# **MARCH**

# **2018**



GOD IS FAITHFUL, AND HE WILL NOT LET YOU BE TEMPTED BEYOND YOUR ABILITY, BUT WITH THE TEMPTATION HE WILL ALSO PROVIDE THE WAY OF ESCAPE, THAT YOU MAY BE ABLE TO ENDURE IT.

Escape is really popular. Whether we think of our everyday trials and challenges (I wish i could leave this all behind), or amazing escapes after a tragedy has struck (I can't believe they found them under all that rubble), or the things we do just to get away (TV, music, gaming, virtual reality) we connect with the idea of escape. Speaking of virtual reality, companies are developing all sorts of technology we can escape into.

You might expect a church newsletter to go on about staying connected to reality - a lecture about being responsible and staying connected and involved. Even though it is Lent, we won't go there. Everyone needs a little escape time, some respite from the everyday.

What faith and Church is more about is the fact that our "reality," the struggles, pains, failings, sins, disappointments, weaknesses we all know too well will not win or overcome us. We have escaped.

More than two thousand years ago,

God's plan of redemption altered our reality forever. The reality and power of sin and death was broken through the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus Christ that first Easter. Death was defeated. True life, spiritual life, God's life triumphed. We have escaped sin and death in Him.

Over the next weeks, we will complete our Lenten journey, enter into Passiontide, and journey together through the events of Holy Week. We will connect with the brutal reality that changed our reality and provided us escape.

Escape from sin and death in Jesus is true life. We are alive to Jesus's life, sacrifice, and power. The new escaped life Jesus provides us is reason to celebrate! It is reason to respond to God's open arms and His invitation to draw near to Him. Join us in these weeks and days as we experience the life-giving truth of God's power. Find freedom, real escape, and transformation. Become part of God's new life and creation.

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## Our Lenten Journey Toward Holy Week

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We are in the midst of our Lenten journey. Each Friday we gather to observe the sacred tradition of Stations of the Cross. This helps us better

understand the loving devotion Jesus had for us, to the point where He gives up His life for us. Walk with Him today so that we may rejoice with Him on the last day. We continue our annual directed giving campaign to offer up food and other things needful for those in our local community.

Holy Week begins with Palm Sunday on March 25th. Please be attentive to our schedule and join us. There is truly no greater experience than deep contemplation and sacrifice leading to the ultimate joy of Easter.

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## Lenten Retreat

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Lenten Retreats in parishes and Seniorates all over the country and

Canada are scheduled for this season. Our Mohawk Valley Seniorate will conduct its Lenten Retreat **on Saturday, March 10th at our parish starting at 10am.**

This retreat process has grown each year - and is a highlight in our larger communal experience of faith. We strongly encourage you to attend. Please give us a heads up if you will be attending so enough food may be provided. There is no charge for this spiritual exercise.

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## Join us for everything Easter

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We so look forward to seeing you for Passiontide (the remainder of Lent starting on March 18th) as we join together in fellowship to pray, sacrifice, fast, increase our charity, and forgive.

March 25th 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 1st with our Solemn Resurrection Holy Mass at 8am.

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

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## Please Help Basket Social April 15th

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B is for Basket

It is time to get ready for our annual basket social to be held Sunday, April 15th at the Rotterdam Senior Citizens

**Center.** 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/cmk1953/basket-party-ideas/>

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## Outrageous Valentine's Raffle Winners!!!

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Congratulations to all who have won in our Outrageous Valentine's Raffle. The official winners list is as follows:

Renee Konicki, Danielle Funicello, June Antkiewicz, Cyndie Williams

(2X), Stefan & Elizabeth Weglinski, Jack Woodworth, Pat Badovinac, Marilyn Hietala, Amber Tatlock, Fr. Dennis Ruda (2X), Wayne & Kathy Liska (4X including the grand prize), Michelle Zawistowski, Dave Taylor, Jake Zembruski, Adam Konicki, Victoria Konicki, Joe Kaczynski (2X), Laurie Pike, Tammy Van Avery, Bishop Stan, Adeline Bush (2X).

Thank you to those who re-donated their winnings as a special blessing. We have raised over \$1,100 for our youth programs.

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## Our Annual Financial Meeting - March 11th

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Our annual financial meeting will be held on Sunday, March 11th. There will be one Holy Mass that day at 10am. Breakfast will be served. Please attend and help decide on our financial matters.

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## Milestones to Celebrate:

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### Birthdays

9 Rebecca Kopec, Marianna Zemken  
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 Zembruski  
23 Erin Pross  
24 Amber Houser  
26 Elizabeth Battaglia, Nylyse Rios, Sarah Limmer

27 Skyler Dee  
28 Frances Pawlowski, Lilianna  
Kalnaus  
30 Susan Malinowski

Wishing you all many years!

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

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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.

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 Joanne & Stacey for preparing a wonderful breakfast that day.

Thank you for your Souper Bowl Sunday generosity. \$161 was collected and donated locally.

Thank you to our wonderful altar servers, our organist and choir director Liz Battaglia, and to all who assist in the ministry of hospitality.

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

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## Ideas for a Family Lent

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2018 has been designated as the 'Year of the Family' in our Holy Church. The theme for March 2018

is Celebrating Lent as a Family.

Here is a list of various ideas for you and your family to do together that will make this a more meaningful walk with Christ, an important time of renewal and growing closer to our Lord, His Church and your family.

1. Attend the special Lenten Masses, services and retreat at your parish as a family
2. Encourage each other in our intensified works of charity, prayer and fasting
3. Marking the family's calendar NOW to plan on attending the special liturgies during Holy Week together.
4. Volunteer as a family to help those in need in whatever way is needed in your respective community
5. Serve at or donate to a soup kitchen or soup pantry as a family.
6. A clothing drive – 40 days 40 Items as a family
7. Practice Kindness daily: no gossip, no complaining, complement others, be supportive
8. Donate blood together
9. Visit someone who is sick, in a nursing home or homebound as a family
10. Offer a daily Lenten Meditation or scriptural reading as a family prior to or after the family shared meal

11. Pray the Litany of the Passion together as a family on one day of the week. PNCC Prayer book
12. Replace 30 minutes of screen time (TV/Computer/iPad/Smart Phone) with 30 minutes of prayer/devotion/scripture reading
13. Pick a day during Lent to go screen free (no internet/TV)
14. If you cannot attend stations of the cross or sorrowful lamentations as a family – then as a family pray them from our PNCC prayer book
15. Making an almsgiving jar or collection box to collect change and money that goes to help others in some way.
16. "Charity Starts at Home Day"-- picking a special day in which each member of the family performs acts of loving service for another member
17. Sing a Lenten hymn together as a family after a shared meal – play one from YouTube
18. If you have younger children – color Lenten pictures together
19. Read the passion together as a family – Matthew 26 & 27; Mark 14 & 15; Luke 22 & 23 and John 18 & 19
20. Watching a movie about the life of the Lord together and discussing afterward
21. Choose a Lenten sacrifice to do as a family i.e. not eating out, not going to a movie, concert or event during Lent.

22. As a family prepare an Easter basket to be brought to church to be blessed or an Easter table for the priest to come and bless

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## **Directed Giving for Lent:**

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3rd Week of Lent, Mar. 5-11,  
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. 12-18,  
SCHOOL NEEDS Pencils and Pens, Folders and Notebooks, Crayons, Tape and Elmer's Glue.

Passion Week, Mar 19-25, BABY MAKES THREE Disposable Diapers, Baby Wipes, Liquid Formula, Jars of Baby Food.

Holy Week, Mar. 26-31, SPECIAL NEEDS DIET Low Sodium Soups, Canned Fruit in Juice (not in syrup), Canned Tuna in Water, Low Sodium Crackers, Organic Applesauce.

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## **Marriage and Family Life**

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In 2018, all members of our Holy Church are called upon to focus on the family life of Christians. Holy Matrimony is the start of a grace filled and supported family life.

We seek to assist those members of our parish who have been married before and now desire to validly enter into Sacramental Marriages within the Church. If due to the circumstances of life, you were

married civilly but have never been married in the Church or if you were previously married, divorced, and wish to consider entering into sacramental marriages we want to help.

Please contact Fr. Jim who can answer any specific questions and assist you in entering into the process of sacramental marriage.

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### Planning For:

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- Mar. 4: 3rd Sunday of Lent. **Holy Mass at 11:30am ONLY.** Commemoration of St. Casimir.
- Mar 9: Stations of the Cross at 7pm.
- Mar. 10: Seniorate Lenten Retreat (in our parish), starting at 10am.
- Mar. 11: Solemnity of the institution of the PNCC. **Holy Mass at 10am only**, Light Breakfast, Annual Budget Meeting. Daylight Savings Time Begins.
- Mar. 16: Stations of the Cross at 7pm.

### Passiontide Begins

- Mar. 18: Passion Sunday. Holy Mass at 9:30 and 11:30am.
- Mar. 19: Holy Mass for Healing at 6:15pm. Parish Committee Meeting.
- Mar. 23: Stations of the Cross at 7pm.

### Holy Week

- Mar 25: Palm Sunday, Holy Mass at 9:30 and 11:30am.

- Mar. 27: Holy Tuesday. Clergy Conference. Holy Mass of Chrism (Cathedral in Scranton).
- Mar. 29: Maundy Thursday, Holy Mass, Procession, Stripping of the Altars, 7pm.
- Mar. 30: Good Friday, Cross Walk at 11:30am, Bitter Lamentations at 3pm, Liturgy of the Presanctified and Opening of the Tomb at 7pm.
- Mar. 31: Holy Saturday, Liturgy of New Fire, Renewal of Baptismal Promises, Blessing of Easter Baskets, 4pm.

### Easter












- April 1: Solemnity of the Resurrection/Easter, Holy Mass at 8am and 10am.





# March

2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	 2	3
4 3rd Sunday of Lent. Holy Mass at 11:30am <b>ONLY</b> . Lector: Joe Kaczynski. Commemoration of St. Casimir	5	6	 7	8	9  Stations of the Cross at 7pm	10
11 <b>Solemnity of the Institution.</b> Holy Mass at 10am <b>ONLY</b> . Lector: Larry Panfil. Breakfast and Annual Budget Meeting. <b>REMINDER: Day Light Savings Starts.</b>	12	13	 14	15	16  Stations of the Cross at 7pm	17
18 Passion Sunday. Holy Mass at 9:30 and 11:30am. Lectors: Marilyn Hietala and Claudia Bertasso	19 Solemnity – St. Joseph, Spouse of the B.V.M. Holy Mass for Healing with Anointing at 6:15pm. Parish Committee Meets	20	 21	22	23  Stations of the Cross at 7pm	24 St. Gabriel, Archangel
25 Palm Sunday. Holy Mass at 9:30 and 11:30am. Lectors: Joe Kaczynski and Claudia Bertasso	26 Holy Monday	27 Holy Tuesday. Clergy conference. Holy Mass of Chrism (St. Stanislaus B&M Cathedral, Scranton, PA)	28  Holy Wednesday	29  Maundy Thursday. Holy Mass at 7pm.	30  Good Friday. Cross walk at 11:30am. Bitter Lamentations at 3pm. Presanctified liturgy and opening of tomb at 7pm	31  Holy Saturday. Liturgy of New Fire, Renewal of Baptismal Promises, Blessing of Easter Baskets, 4pm

**April 1st - Solemnity of the Resurrection/Easter, Holy Mass at 8am and 10am.**