



# Good Shepherd Church

*The Fourth Sunday of Lent*

**March 10 & 11, 2018**



## † MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK †

**Saturday March 10**  
**4:00 PM** Michael Whitaker ~ Joe & Irene Slebodnick

**Sunday March 11**  
**8:00 AM** Parishioners of Good Shepherd  
**10:00 AM** Joan S. Sauers ~ Bill, Janet, & Kim Kringe

**Monday March 12**  
**8:00 AM** Catherine Gorga ~ Godfrey Bellinghausen

**Tuesday March 13**  
**8:00 AM** Rita Schmidt ~ Edward & Jessica Polashenski

**Wednesday March 14**  
**8:00 AM** Milady Family ~ Vic & Aggie Platania

**Thursday March 15**  
**8:00 AM** Angeline Yancus ~ Agnes Salko

**Friday March 16**  
**8:00 AM** Edward Verbonitz ~ Mary Ann Williams & Family

**Saturday March 17**  
**4:00 PM** Anthony, Sr. & Helen Cameron ~ Son, Anthony & Daughter-In-Law, Ann

**Sunday March 18**  
**8:00 AM** Parishioners of Good Shepherd  
**10:00 AM** Joseph Rocosky ~ Wife, Suzanne & Sister, Barb

*The Rose for Life* this week is in for **John and Anna Marushin** by Joe and Irene Slebodnick.

**Anniversary Mass:** His Excellency, the Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, D.D., J.C.L., Bishop of Scranton, and the Office for Parish Life wish to invite couples celebrating their 25<sup>th</sup> or 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary in 2018 to a diocesan Wedding Anniversary Mass on **Sunday, June 10**. The event includes a 2:30 PM Mass at St. Peter's Cathedral followed by a reception. **Requests for an invitation, with a mailing address, should be made by calling the parish office before March 12th.**



**Sources for My Theme Articles:** For the past several years, I have employed three main authors in composing the "Theme" articles. The authors I have employed are Sister Dianne Bergant, Fr. John R. Donahue, and Fr. Edward Dowling. All have commentaries on the A, B, and C cycles. Sister Dianne Bergant was a recent participant in the fine Biblical Institute that Misericordia presents each year, and like Fr. Donahue, has "Praying with Scripture" reflections after her commentary on the Sunday readings. Sister Dianne offers many creative thoughts. Fr. John R. Donahue, S.J., is the best known of the authors I use on a regular basis. He is retired, and is in his mid to late 80s. At one time, he held the Fr. Raymond Brown Chair at St. Mary's, Roland Park. Fr. Donahue was a frequent visitor to Misericordia's Biblical Institute, and I have read several of his books besides the Sunday reading ones. Father Edward Dowling (not the *Fr. Dowling Mysteries* priest) has served 3 terms as Chairman of Fordham's Economics Department and a term as Dean of Fordham. For his insights on the Sunday readings, I would call him "the third Fordham Flash," following in the footsteps of baseball Hall of Famer Frankie Frisch and Atlas, Pennsylvania's football star, Len Eshmont, who had a successful career with the 49ers. Coupled with my own knowledge, that is what you get in my "Theme" articles.

## Stewardship

669 families received envelopes.

Offertory Envelopes for the weekend 3/4:

MASS TIME	NUMBER OF FAMILIES OFFERING	AMOUNT OF OFFERING	ATTENDANCE AT MASS
4:00 PM	87	\$1,664.00	238
8:00 AM	66	\$ 917.00	149
10:00 AM	62	\$ 855.00	244
	Loose	\$ 217.00	
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$3,353.00</b>	<b>631</b>

## Worship

*The Tabernacle Candle* burns this week in memory of Anthony Cameron by wife and family.

**Faith Formation Penance:** This will be held at the regular class period on Monday, March 12, at 4:30 PM.

**Penance Services:** Our Penance Service will be on Thursday, March 22, at 7:00 PM. St. John Bosco will have theirs on Wednesday, March 21, also at 7:00 PM.

**Scripture Session:** The fifth presentation in our Lenten Scripture series will be held on Thursday, March 15, at 9:00 AM. You are welcome to attend this session whether or not you attended the others. The topic will be announced.

**Catholic Relief Collection:** This is the second collection this weekend.

**Stations of the Cross:** Stations of the Cross with Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament will be held on Friday, March 16, at 4:00 PM. On Friday, March 23, also at 4:00 PM, Faith Formation students will present the Living Stations. Please try to support our students. There will not be Benediction that day.

**The Light Is On For You:** I will hear confessions on Tuesday, March 13, from 5:00 to 6:00 PM in my office adjacent to the library.

## **Word**

**Theme: *God is Rich in Mercy:*** Our first reading for today is taken from the Second Book of Chronicles which was composed around 400 B.C., and today's passage reflects on the Babylonian exile that Israel suffered approximately 200 years earlier. 2<sup>nd</sup> Chronicles reflects on "the sin history" of Israel which led to the country's exile. The passage speaks of the continued infidelity of Israel to God, the pollution of the Temple, and the ignoring of the prophets. Because of this, the enemies of Israel overcame the country and exiled its citizens. However, the first reading ends on a hopeful note. Cyrus, the King of Persia, defeated the Babylonians and allowed the people of Israel to return to their homeland. St. Paul, in the second reading from Ephesians, reflects on the great mercy of God who freely bestows His gifts on us. The Gospel from John is part of the visit of Nicodemus to Jesus at night in chapter 3. Nicodemus is an influential member of the Sanhedrin who was attracted by Jesus' words, but does not want other members of the Sanhedrin to know this. In chapter 7 of John, Nicodemus urges the Sanhedrin to allow Jesus the freedom to speak, and later, after the crucifixion, along with Joseph of Arimathea, will ask for the body of Jesus. Nicodemus appears only in the Gospel of John. Both Byzantine and Roman Catholics view him as a saint, although there is no memorial of him in the Missal or Lectionary.

### **Praying With Scripture:**

1. Pray to experience the deep love God has for you as an individual.
2. Have any of your personal crises in your own life or crises in the Church or the world hurt your confidence in God's merciful love?
3. Recall those people, living and deceased, who have touched your life in a positive way.

### **Easter Triduum and Easter Sunday Schedule:**

Holy Thursday, March 29 – 7:00 PM – Mass of the Lord's Supper

Good Friday, March 30 – 1:00 PM – Service of the Lord's Passion

Holy Saturday, March 31 – 11:00 AM – Blessing of Baskets

8:00 PM – Easter Vigil Mass  
Easter Sunday Masses – 8:00, 10:00, and 11:30 AM  
If someone is handicapped or is uncomfortable in crowds, the 11:30 AM Mass is your best bet.

**Laetare Sunday:** Just as Gaudete Sunday is always the third Sunday of Advent, Laetare Sunday is always the fourth Sunday of Lent. Laetare Sunday is designated by the first words of the Latin Entrance Antiphon "Rejoice, Jerusalem." In mid-Lent, we pause to rejoice in the ultimate victory of Christ over death. Rose vestments mark both Gaudete and Laetare Sundays.

**Scripture Sessions Well-Attended:** This Lent's Scripture sessions have been really well-attended, and I am grateful for your support of this program. I am grateful for Jim McGuire's formatting my presentations. I continue to put a great deal of work into these sessions since I feel little is available in Northeastern Pennsylvania in the area of quality biblical studies.

**Easter Collection:** Please contribute generously to the Easter collection.

**We welcome** Brandi Ritz as our newest member of Good Shepherd parish.

**YouTube Scripture:** I always have one or two presentations on YouTube. Type in "Father Connell McHugh Biblical Narratives" to listen to and view them. This coming Wednesday, March 14, I will make a presentation on Catholicfmradio.com on the Internet from 7:30 to 8:30 PM. Type in "Catholicfmradio.com" on your computer to listen in.

**Breakfast:** Thanks to all who set up, cooked, and served the breakfast on Sunday, March 4<sup>th</sup>. 196 adults and 23 children attended. We thank those who attended. For all the work put into the breakfast, we would like to see between 250 and 300 attend.

**Annual Appeal Supplement Envelope:** The Diocese wanted us to put this into our packet when we were not at our goal. We have now attained our goal. If you are currently fulfilling a pledge, keep sending the money to the Diocese and do not use this envelope. This envelope is basically for those who have not contributed who may wish to now.

## FR. CONNELL'S TRIVIA

1. This former heavyweight boxing champion was arrested 19 times and was never embraced by his adopted city of Philadelphia. He appeared on the cover of the Beatles' album, *Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band*. Can you name him?
2. More Major League players were born in this state than any other. Can you name the state?

### ***Last Week's Answers:***

1. Joe Holup of Swoyersville is the only Northeastern Pennsylvania player in the 1957 Topps basketball set. He appears as a Syracuse National on his card.
2. The first regional baseball player appearing in a card set was Chris Fulmer of Tamaqua. He played with Baltimore and Washington.

## **Community**

***Tuesday Night Bingo*** at Good

Shepherd Church starts with our Early Bird game at 6:00 PM. We play 22 games each week and payouts range from \$50 to over \$500. Our regular games pay \$100 each.

The kitchen opens at 5:00 PM with special soups, sandwiches, beverages, ethnic foods and a variety of other goodies including fries, pretzels, candy, chips, and more. We also provide complimentary coffee, tea, and cake to our players (and volunteers).



**The Valley Food Pantry** helps those in need of food, paper products, and hygienic articles. We have been asked to collect tissues, tuna, applesauce, stewed tomatoes, spaghetti sauce, rice, cereal, and pancake mix and syrup.

Please check expiration dates.

**The Valley Food Pantry** has asked us to collect canned red beets and brown sugar for the Easter boxes which will be given to 60 area needy families. The deadline for donations is **Wednesday, March 21**. Please check expiration dates. **The staff of the Valley Food Pantry really appreciates the support of Good Shepherd Parish. Thank you for your generosity!**

**Lenten Fish Dinner:** Good Shepherd Church is sponsoring a Lenten Fish Dinner on **Friday, March 16**, from **4:00 – 7:00 PM**, in the church hall. The menu includes breaded haddock, macaroni and cheese, stewed tomatoes, coleslaw, green beans, dessert, and beverage. The cost is \$11 for adults and \$5.00 for children ages 10 and under. Pre-orders are not necessary. Walk-ins and take-outs are welcome!



**Fish Dinner Desserts:** If anyone would like to donate baked goods for the fish dinner, please call Connie Marcino at 570-788-6216, Andrea Tarnopolski at 570-788-2002, or Sarah Gibbons at 570-788-7453.

**Queen of Our Hearts Rosary Group** invites you to come pray with us on **Saturday mornings at 11:00 AM** at Good Shepherd Church. We will be praying the Infant of Prague chaplet, the Holy Rosary, and the Divine Mercy chaplet. Join us in praying for Our Lady's intentions, your intentions, and all those that have asked us to pray for them. All are welcome! This is a beautiful devotion to add to your Lenten activities. For any questions or comments, contact us at [angelmia@ptd.net](mailto:angelmia@ptd.net). We hope to see you there!

**The 2018 Catholic Men's Conference - "Be A Man: Christ is Here, Come and See"** – will take place on Saturday, May 5, at King's College, Scandlon Physical Education Center, 149 North Main St, Wilkes-Barre. Eucharistic Adoration with Rosary will be at 6:00 AM, registration/Continental Breakfast will be at 7:00 AM, and the conference main program will be from 8:00 AM to 3:00 PM. Register online at [www.BeAManConference.com](http://www.BeAManConference.com) (click the "Register" button), call the Diocesan Pastoral Center at 570-207-2213, or pick up a registration form on the table in the church vestibule. We are still looking for a parish captain. Please call the parish office if you are interested.

**Hunting Heritage Banquet:** The Honey Hole Longbeards Chapter of the NWTF will hold its annual banquet on Saturday, March 24, at Capriotti's Catering in McAdoo. Doors open at 4:00 PM, with dinner at 5:30 PM. Enjoy a night with food, refreshments, auctions, and raffles. For more information, contact Mark Ferdinand at 570-788-6362.

## **The Shepherd's Hands**

**Rose for Life:** Thank you to all who requested Roses for Life. There are still many dates open for 2018. Request forms are available on the table in the church vestibule.



## **Companions on the Journey** **Grief Ministry News**

Our friends at St. John Bosco will be hosting a seven-week grief support group and have extended an invitation to any interested Good Shepherd parishioner to join them. They will be reflecting on understanding common grief reactions, coping strategies, self-care throughout the grief process and beyond, and the uniqueness of your grief experience. If you have suffered the loss of a loved one and would like the help of a support group in moving forward, please contact Marie Guza at 570-455-3874 to register. **The sessions begin on Monday, March 12<sup>th</sup>.**

*Companions on the Journey* will hold their next planning meeting on **Thursday, March 15**, following Father McHugh's Scripture Session. The meeting will be held in the parish hall and new parishioners are always welcome to join us.

## **The Women of Good Shepherd**

The children's Easter Bingo will take the place of our monthly meeting. There will be no scheduled meeting on March 12<sup>th</sup>.

The Women of Good Shepherd will be hosting our annual Easter Bingo for the children of Good Shepherd Parish. It will take place on **Monday, March 19**, in the church hall following Faith Formation classes. The cost will be \$3.00 per child, payable that evening. Each child will be served a hot dog, drink, bag of chips, cookies, a Bingo card good for 5 games, and a chance to win a giant chocolate bunny. Please fill out the form below if your child is interested in attending. You can drop off the completed form in the Easter basket located in the church vestibule. Please return your form by Wednesday, March 14<sup>th</sup>. Proceeds go toward the Women of Good Shepherd Scholarship Fund. We hope to see you there!

### **Children's Easter Bingo**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Child's name (s) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ I would like to volunteer to help out with the event.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

## **Festival Corner**

**Raffle Tickets:** Envelopes containing cash and progressive raffle tickets are available for pick-up in the **St. Joseph Room** before and after all the Masses. They are arranged in alphabetical order. Please stop by for your envelope – it will help lower our postage costs. Thank you!