

**Church of Saint Philip Neri**  
**Pennsburg, PA 18073**  
**March 25, 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:** [tdeweese@spncflc.org](mailto:tdeweese@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**

Holy Thursday: Mass of the Lord's

7:00 PM – Alice Swift

Deacon

Priest

Deacon

Deacon

Mike Misiak

Marianne Peters

Terry Benner

Annemarie Quigley

Jim Quigley

Christine Adelsberger

Steve Adelsberger

### **March 29**

#### **Lectors**

Supper

M. Gehringer

M. Horvath

Good Friday: Passion of the Lord

7:00 PM – Marlene Leidy

Deacon

Priest

Deacon

Deacon

Lori Brozena

### **March 30**

S. DiMarco

R. Leidy

Holy Saturday: Easter Vigil

7:00 PM – Judy Horvath

Deacon

Priest

Trudy Moser

Dave Moser

Karen Garland

Leonette Nicolaou

Mary Souder

Andrew Souder

Terry Benner

Lori Brozena

### **March 31**

P. Frank

L. Del Prato

C. Bowser

B. Bowser

D. McCausland

G. Plosa

R. DeGrassi

M. Horvath

Easter Sunday

7:30 AM – Jo Ellen Carr

Judith Doherty

Priest

Deacon

Paul Moser

Maureen Moser

### **April 1**

J. Gilmore

T. Gilmore

10:00 AM – Teri Quatrani

Deacon

Priest

Deacon

Mary Goodfellow

Rose Anderson

Keith Greczek

Stephanie Greczek

Ed Tryon

Alicia Tryon

Theresa Walker

LaRue Emmell

M. Brodlo

H. Brodlo

**Palm Sunday of the Passion of The Lord**  
**March 25, 2018**

Monday, March 26  
9:00 AM – 7:00 PM - Adoration in the Chapel  
6:30 AM – Communion Service

Tuesday, March 27  
8:00 AM – William J. Cuggy,  
(Paul & Maureen Moser)  
9:00 AM - 7:00 pm - Adoration in the Chapel  
4:30 PM – Communion Service

Wednesday, March 28  
6:30 AM – Communion Service  
8:00 AM – Pat Meinzer,  
(Bob Schwind)  
9:00 am - 7:00 pm - Adoration in the Chapel

Holy Thursday, March 29  
NO Morning Mass or Communion Service  
NO Adoration  
7:00 pm – Mass of The Lord’s Supper

Good Friday, March 30  
NO Mass today – NO Exposition of the Blessed  
Sacrament.  
Chapel open until 3:00 PM for Adoration without  
Exposition.  
7:00 pm – Passion of The Lord

Holy Saturday, March 31  
NO Morning Mass or Adoration  
12:00 NOON – Blessing of Easter Food  
7:00 PM – Easter Vigil Mass – NO Intention

**Easter Sunday of  
The Resurrection of The Lord**  
**April 1, 2018**

7:30 am – NO Intention  
10:00 am – NO Intention

**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:  
**Michael Quigley.**

For those who have died, and in particular for **George Zegiestowsky**, 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 19, 2017	March 18, 2018
Envelopes:	\$ 6,013.00	\$ 5,806.00
Online:	1,681.00	1,482.00
Loose:	1,003.00	371.00
Children:	41.00	24.00
Total:	\$ 8,738.00	\$ 7,683.00

**SPECIAL SUNDAY COLLECTIONS:**

**April 2018**

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

**Mother’s Day & 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.**

## **HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE 2018**

Easter Sunday (April 1)

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

## **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 and**

### **Easter Liturgical Ministers Schedule:**

The Liturgical Ministers schedule for Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday Easter Vigil and Easter Sunday Masses is now available in the Bulletin, on the Board in small room near Vestibule and on the Parish Website.

Thank you to all who offered to assist us during this holy time for our parish and the Church. Please pay close attention to your assignment times and places and close attention to the special notes at the bottom of the schedule.

**\*\* Important notes: Servers for Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday, please be in the Sacristy by 6:00PM for rehearsal. Lectors for Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday, please check in with Matt Horvath no later than 6:45PM.**

### **2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Liturgical Ministers Schedule:**

The new Schedule will be available next weekend and will begin with Sunday, April 8. Hard copies of the Schedule will be available in small room near Vestibule and will also be posted on the Website.

### **2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Greeter Schedules:**

Copies are available for pickup in small room near Vestibule.

### **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 **Barbara Schwind**; requested by: Kelly and Brad Sunderland.

In memory of **George Zegiestowsky**; requested by: Pete and Linda Frank.

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

## **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 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**

In preparation for the Feast of The Divine Mercy, Our Lord asked St. Faustina to make a Novena of Prayer from Good Friday to the following Saturday. For each of the nine days, our Lord gave St. Faustina a different intention. Jesus told St. Faustina "I desire that during these nine days, you bring souls to the Fountain of My Mercy." (Diary 1209).

This year, the Novena will begin on Good Friday, March 30 and continue until Saturday, April 7. Novena Sheets are available in the Vestibule and at each side door of the Church.

Call Dawn Ellis: 215.679.2160 for any questions.

### **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.

### **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).

### **BINGO**

This is a reminder that Bingo will be held on Sunday, April 15 at 1PM in the Parish Hall. There is NO Bingo on April 1<sup>st</sup>

### **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.





**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.

**St. Philip Neri Church**

**All-You-Can-Eat Buffet Breakfast!**

**Sunday, April 15th: 7AM - 12PM**

**215.679.8116**

Scrambled eggs . Bacon. Sausage.  
Scrapple. chipped beef.  
Pancakes: plain & one topping  
Home fried Potatoes . Cereal . Toast  
Milk . Coffee . Hot tea . 3 juices

**Omelette Station:** prepared to order - always with a minimum of 4 different ingredients.

**Make your own Waffles:**  
Fix'n Bar: yogurt, granola, fresh fruit

**Homemade Baked Goods & Egg Rolls for sale!**

For every 100 sold breakfasts, one FREE will be given away!

Seniors (60 & up):	\$8.00
Adults (11-60)	\$9.00
Ages 4-11:	\$5.00
4 & under:	\$1.00

Checks & major credit cards are accepted.

**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)

## **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•

**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.

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

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

## **You Are Made New: A Retreat for Women**

We invite you to join us as we encounter Jesus in a personal, powerful way through praise and worship music, inspiring speakers, healing prayer, personal coaching and reflection, and a time of adoration. The mission of this retreat is to unleash the power of God, through the Holy Spirit, and invite Him to change our hearts and transform our lives! You will leave with tools to help you continue the transformation back home. **April 27-28, 2018 at Pope John Paul II High School, Royersford, PA**

**Presenters:** Father Stephen DeLacy, Megan Mastrianni of Anthem Philly, De Yarrison, CPCC, Mark Griswold, Worship Leader; Visit the website: <https://youaremadenew.com/made-new-freedom-retreat/> or call De Yarrison at 610.287.2989

**Sunday, April 29, 2018 -- 3:00 pm to 7:00 pm**

### **Event: Find Your Greatness: Four Habits That Will Transform Your Life**

What are your habits? Are they helping you become the best version of yourself? Come learn about four simple habits you can develop that will lead you to becoming the person God created you to be. Based on Matthew Kelly's book "*The Four Signs of a Dynamic Catholic*" this half-day event will help you reach your full potential. Come join us for a very special experience that will be spiritually enriching and entertaining.

**Location:** Saint Stanislaus Parish, 51 Lansdale Ave., Lansdale, PA

**Speaker:** Dr. Allen Hunt from Dynamic Catholic

**To learn more and to purchase tickets:** Visit the website: [www.DynamicCatholic.com/Lansdale](http://www.DynamicCatholic.com/Lansdale) or call 859-980-7900.

## **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.**

## **AREA NEWS**

### **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)

## **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**



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

## Sunday, Mar 25, 2018

### PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD

#### Guilty as sin

Time for a confession. We did it. We're the ones who denied Jesus somewhere between three times and 77 times, just since Lent began. We sold him for a wad of cash, or a comfortable lifestyle, or a moment's peace. We took a snooze when Jesus asked us to pray. We kissed him in public, but looked the other way when he was abused. We twisted his words to suit our purposes, mocked him with thin praise, ran when he needed a friend, hid to save our skins. Lord, have mercy. Christ have mercy. Lord have mercy.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Procession: Mark 11:1-10 or John 12:12-16 (37); Mass: Isaiah 50:4-7; Philippians 2:6-11; Mark 14:1-15:47 (38). "They began to be distressed and to say to [Jesus], one by one, 'Surely it is not I?'"*

## Monday, Mar 26, 2018

### MONDAY OF HOLY WEEK

#### Rise up in faith

Talk about "life-threatening": Sometimes vitality itself is the threat! Lazarus was looking mighty good for a dead man after Jesus called him out of the tomb. So the religious authorities put Lazarus on their hit list along with Jesus. Next time, Lazarus might stay dead; however, nobody reckoned on Jesus. Although you'll never see the bumper sticker announcing it, "Resurrection happens," too. Our new life in Christ should be highly visible—not to mention equally troubling—to those who prefer God-inspired troublemakers to be quiet and lifeless.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Isaiah 42:1-7; John 12:1-11 (257). "The chief priests planned to put Lazarus to death as well, since it was on account of him that many were believing in Jesus."*

## Tuesday, Mar 27, 2018

### TUESDAY OF HOLY WEEK

#### Salvation is always at hand

Who looks for Jesus? People who are suffering, mostly. The sick, outcasts, and sinners are always running after Jesus, hoping for relief from their pain. So when the Greeks start looking for Jesus, we know something's changed. These folks are doing well—they're just in town for the Passover festival. The only reason such folks could want Jesus is as Jesus predicts: God's saving plan gathers momentum when the outside world is onto the gospel. We, too, normally seek Jesus when things are going wrong. But salvation is often closer when need is not all that compels us.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Isaiah 49:1-6; John 13:21-33, 36-38 (258). "The Greeks came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said, 'Sir, we wish to see Jesus.'"*

## Wednesday, Mar 28, 2018

### WEDNESDAY OF HOLY WEEK

#### Resist the temptation to sell out

If you want an example of how the gospels tell the same story differently, then you need go no further than Judas' betrayal of Jesus. Only in Matthew does Judas get 30 pieces of silver in advance for handing Christ over to the authorities. That Judas is greedy we know. "What will you give me?" he asks up front. Here's the lesson: Once you've been paid off, it's a lot harder to back out. Who is currently running interference for something you'd rather not do? Who is fronting for your choices so you don't have to account for them? How do you work up the nerve to say no to these abdications of responsibility for which you



may have to pay a much bigger price later?

TODAY'S READINGS: *Isaiah 50:4-9a; Matthew 26:14-25 (259)*. "They paid him 30 pieces of silver. And from that moment Judas began to look for an opportunity to betray Jesus."

### Thursday, Mar 29, 2018

#### EVENING MASS OF THE LORD'S SUPPER (HOLY THURSDAY)

##### Time for some church hopping!

On this day it is traditional in parts of the Catholic world to visit seven churches, a practice that may have originated in Rome. In the Philippines and parts of Latin America the tradition is called *Visita Iglesia* ("church visit") and involves reciting the Stations of the Cross at the various stops along the way. In Singapore the Lord's Prayer and other prayers are recited seven times at each church visited accompanied by festivities and a "last supper" before the Good Friday fast. In India 14 churches are visited, one for each Station of the Cross. Why not partake in this tradition and make it your own?

TODAY'S READINGS: *Exodus 12:1-8, 11-14; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26; John 13:1-15 (39)*. "When he had washed their feet he . . . said to them, 'Do you realize what I have done for you?'"

### Friday, Mar 30, 2018

#### FRIDAY OF THE LORD'S PASSION (GOOD FRIDAY); DAY OF ABSTINENCE

##### Be kind—it's always possible

It's pretty easy to look around and conclude that one of the things humans do best is inflict suffering on one another. Christ's Passion draws attention to suffering, both what he endured because a group of leaders put their own power and security ahead of everything else, and what people have endured ever since for similar reasons. Yet Christ gathers up all suffering and death in his own. The Passion and Resurrection of Jesus forever ended meaningless suffering and

death. All sacrifice, all loss, now has ultimate value because Christ offered himself for sacrifice and rose again. You can participate in this redeeming sacrifice by exercising kindness wherever you find suffering.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Isaiah 52:13-53:12; Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9; John 18:1-19:42 (40)*. "When you make his life an offering for sin . . . through him the will of the Lord shall prosper."

### Saturday, Mar 31, 2018

#### HOLY SATURDAY

##### Sit in the dark and see the light

In his 2004 Easter Vigil homily, Pope Saint John Paul II said we must renew our dedication to the service of the gospel: "If this mission may sometimes seem difficult, call to mind the words of the Risen Lord: 'I am with you always' (Matt. 28:20). Certain of his presence, you shall fear no difficulty and no obstacle. . . . His Body and his Blood will nourish you and sustain you on your daily journey to eternity." Still feeling uncertain of Jesus' presence? Attend the Easter Vigil. Sitting in total darkness that becomes total light as the brazier fire is set and the Paschal candle lit is bound to rekindle your faith in the Light of the World.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Vigil: Genesis 1:1-2:2; Genesis 22:1-18; Exodus 14:15-15:1; Exodus 15:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 17-18; Isaiah 54:5-14; Isaiah 55:1-11; Baruch 3:9-15, 32-4:4; Ezekiel 36:16-17a, 18-28; Romans 6:3-11; Mark 16:1-7 (41)*. "You are looking for Jesus of Nazareth. He has been raised; he is not here."



**"WEARIN' OF THE GREEN"**

SPN SENIOR CLUB THIRD YEAR ANNIVERSARY LUNCHEON

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 28, 2018  
11:30 AM - PARISH HALL

Our entertainment will be  
**"THE RINGING HILLS QUARTET"**

**Reservations are a must!**  
Call Rita Latshaw at 215.679.7009

**Reservation deadline is March 23, 2018**

Suggested lunch offering is \$5.00 pp

**REMINDER:** *Bring all your loose change for our Christmas Coins jar.*