Rev. 12:7

ST. MICHAEL ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

751 Locust Street

PO Box 103

St. Michael, Pennsylvania 15951

Rev. Msgr. David A. Lockard, Administrator MASSES:

(814) 495-9640 Saturday 4:00 pm



Sunday Morning 8:00 am

Secretary: Michele Panick 10:30 am

Bookkeeper: Kathy Kalicky Daily Mass See Bulletin

DRE: Laurie Sloan Holy Days See Bulletin

Maintenance: Rodney Turgeon

Office Hours:

PHONES: 8:30 am to 3:30 pm

Rectory / Office: (814) 495-9640 Monday, Tues., Thurs., Friday

Fax: (814) 495-9424 Confessions:

Rel. Education: (814) 495-4873 Saturday 3:30 pm to 3:45 pm

Parish Website Sunday 7:30 am to 7:45 am

www.saintmichaelchurch.weebly.com 10:00 am to 10:15 am

Secretaries’ E-mail By Appointment

[saintmichaelsecretaries@yahoo.com](mailto:saintmichaelsecretaries@yahoo.com)

Second Sunday of Lent

SERVING GOD AND COMMUNITY FOR OVER ONE HUNDRED YEARS!

March 8, 2020

BAPTISM: By Appointment. Reserve at least one month in advance.

MARRIAGE: Plan at least nine months in advance.

Preparation sessions are necessary.

FUNERALS: Arrangements are made in conjunction with the funeral home.

REGISTRATION Those new to the area, newlyweds, and single adults, (even if registered

and before with their families) are asked to register by calling the Parish Office.

MEMBERSHIP: Every parishioner must be registered. This is a condition for admission

to our Program and reception of the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, First Penance, First Eucharist, and Matrimony; also, for testimonial letters or sponsorship of Baptism and Confirmation outside the Parish.

VISITATION: We are concerned and want to be advised when someone is ill at home or in the hospital. Call the rectory to have the shut-in placed on our monthly Holy Communion calls or seriously ill prayer list.

SACRAMENTAL Parish registration and active Mass participation for Baptism is

POLICY: encouraged and is required for Marriage.

BULLETIN ARTICLES: Articles are due to the Parish Office by Noon on Tuesday.

 Second Sunday of Lent

March 8, 2020

Month of St. Joseph

**MASS INTENTIONS**: (March 9 – March 15, 2020)

Monday 12:00 PM Donna Wright req. by sister, Loretta Maticic

Tuesday 12:00 PM Paul Rock req. by Mildred Andrykovitch

Wednesday 6:00 PM Frances Ritz req. by Jon & Irene Gindlesperger

Thursday 12:00 PM Hermine Sivec req. by Children

Friday 12:00 PM Florence Smith req. by her niece, Agnes Noon

Saturday 4:00 PM Grace Martin req. by Ed & Karen Myers

Sunday 8:00 AM People of the Parish

Sunday 10:30 AM Frank Oshaben req. by Joan & Bob Oshaben

LITURGICIAL APPOINTMENTS:

Saturday, March 14 4:00 PM Offertory Procession

Lector: Donald Dipko Ed & Karen Myers

Ministers of the Host: Helen Slonac & Janet Minor

Minister of the Choir: George Minor

Altar Servers: Carson & Dylan Kundrod

Cantor: Amanda Williamson

Greeter: Helen Slonac

Sunday, March 15 8:00 AM Offertory Procession

Lector: David Knepper Richard & Carol Hautz Ministers of the Host: Marie Jo Plummer & Beth Kundrod

Minister of the Choir: Marie Bernard

Altar Servers: Ana & Eva Spangler

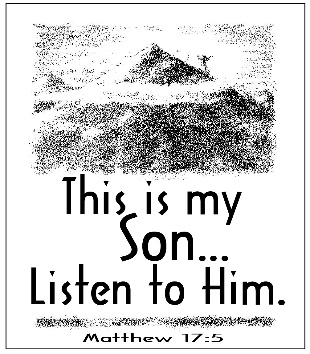
Cantor: Susan Yanzetich

Greeter: Deborah Macy

Sunday, March 1510:30 AM Offertory Procession

Lector: Carole Kakabar Joan & Bob Oshaben

Ministers of the Host: Michael Barton & Robert Oshaben

Minister of the Choir: Michael Steele

Altar Servers: Kirstyn & Cameron Vitez

Cantor: Elizabeth Dobbins

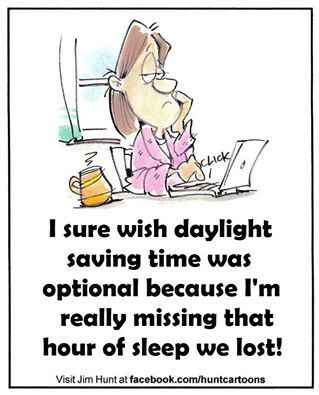
Greeter: REACH Students

Sunday, March 15 Collection Counters

John Bizzarri, Rod Kundrod

Phyllis Slonac

Weare placing names of the sick in the bulletin for prayer providing they give permission. *May the* *Divine Physician send healing grace for those for* *whom we pray:* Allen C. Rosemas, Patricia Murphy, Bernice Myers, Dwight Fyock, Dylon Wills, Missy, Joanne (Kolar) Hufford, Christine Flanagan, Ayden Alan Grata, Mary Lou Offman, Mary Zangaglia, Natalie Zerby, Valencia & Frank Tursi, Homer Locher, Brayden Schofield, Michelle Kasper, Diane Kingera, Allison Krischer, Ted Paluch, Brandt Hutzel, Pearl Litzinger, Patrick Munro, Fran Baldassarre, Kristen Sinosky Long, Helen Ranieri, Cresta Micik, Basil Costantino, Madison McCrory, Laura, Joe Yoder, Dolores Yanzetich, Sandy Krug, Wanda Gramling, Agnes Plummer, Jennifer Hagans, Shawn, Holly, Shane, Spencer, Owen Taylor, Keith & Dawnetta Hoyer, Derrick Varnish, Vincent Koshute, Melissa Cordek, Michelle Elliott, Heather Romanow, Mackston Barrick, Connor Thomas, Erin, Pat, Mary Agnes Nastase, Mary Ann Bertolino, Dick Wilson, Izzy Bihun, Dorothy Kaminsky, Patricia Oshaben, Ashlee Madison, Susan Yanzetich, Mike, Danika Faith, Alina Rusnak, Gary Smay, Elizabeth Howell, Helen Bowen, Walter Bodziak, Rhonda, Dan Strinkoski, Anne Robinson, Marlene McCrory, Sharon Poldiak, Carter Bobak, Vince Arena, Mike Morris, Sarah Kelt, Patty Yanzetich Caldwell, Colton Snyder, Betty Delaney, Nancy Edmiston, Albert Sracic, Joseph Ropecka, Bill Krajewski, Leonard Oshaben, Adam, Bill Gideos, Janice Dipyatic, John Poldiak Jr., Gerald Delaney, Lily Maloney, Adam Wingard, Scott, Lisa, Rosalie Ambrose, John Patrick, Ellen Grattan, Audrey Costlow, Carole Horner, Ross Linert, Mary Ann Peretin DeRosa, Catherine Olszewski, Cathy Sossong, Rosanne Krug, Barbara Malchesky, Paul Snyder and all of the sick of our parish, the homebound, those in nursing homes, those who care for them, and those in the military along with their families. *(Please call the Rectory to have your name removed from the list when no longer seriously ill. Thank You.)*



LAST WEEK’S COLLECTION

Adults $3,770.00

Loose $ 191.75

Youth $ 37.25

Monthly $ 982.00

Candles $ 32.00

Maintenance $ 25.00

Mandeville Diocese $ 445.00

Black & Indian Mission $ 296.00

Easter Flowers $ 343.00

Total $6,122.00

We sincerely thank and ask

God’s blessing upon all

who have care and

concern for our

parish.

*March 8, 2020 MT 17:1-9*

*Transfiguration is a common occurrence in families. When we commit to another, such as a spouse in marriage or a child in parenting, we are not committing to them only as they are today, but to the person they are becoming.*

FEBRUARY 2020 PARISH TICKET WINNERS

[](https://images.search.yahoo.com/images/view;_ylt=AwrB8plKK_1XrE8ADDKJzbkF;_ylu=X3oDMTIyajBlaTZqBHNlYwNzcgRzbGsDaW1nBG9pZAM0MTMxYjYxYzY5YzhiNGY5MzEwN2RhMGUyZDZiMDFjMgRncG9zAzcEaXQDYmluZw--?.origin=&back=https://images.search.yahoo.com/search/images?p%3DFree%2BClipart%2Bof%2BLottery%2BWinners%26fr%3Dyfp-t%26tab%3Dorganic%26ri%3D7&w=420&h=589&imgurl=images.clipartpanda.com/winner-clipart-clip-art-lottery-431235.jpg&rurl=http://www.clipartpanda.com/categories/winner-20clipart&size=87.3KB&name=%3cb%3eWinner%3c/b%3e+20clipart+|+%3cb%3eClipart%3c/b%3e+Panda+-+%3cb%3eFree%3c/b%3e+%3cb%3eClipart%3c/b%3e+Images&p=Free+Clipart+of+Lottery+Winners&oid=4131b61c69c8b4f93107da0e2d6b01c2&fr2=&fr=yfp-t&tt=%3cb%3eWinner%3c/b%3e+20clipart+|+%3cb%3eClipart%3c/b%3e+Panda+-+%3cb%3eFree%3c/b%3e+%3cb%3eClipart%3c/b%3e+Images&b=0&ni=192&no=7&ts=&tab=organic&sigr=11n47l7ao&sigb=139407utj&sigi=1223krgs8&sigt=12i151aj8&sign=12i151aj8&.crumb=wKQwdzP0bBS&fr=yfp-t)UNSOLD TICKETS/NOT RETURNED TICKETS ~ If the winning number is a ticket that was not sold or returned, the money will be split with the number above the winning number and the number below the winning number. If the number above or below the winning number was not returned, we will go above or below that number.

Day Date Amount Number Winner

Friday February 28, 2020 $ 75 849 Ed Hudak

Saturday February 29, 2020 $100 992 John Swelfer

VENDOR FAIR & INDOOR YARD SALE ~ The Forest Hills Drama Club is hosting a Vendor Fair & Indoor Yard Sale on Saturday, March 14th from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM., St. Michael Church, 751 Locust St., St. Michael. All proceeds benefit the Forest Hills Performing Arts Program.

HAM AND CHICKEN DINNER ~ Boy Scout Troop #2251 is hosting a Ham & Chicken Dinner, March 21st, 5 – 7:30 PM, St. Michael Church Hall, 751 Locust St., St. Michael. Dinner includes: Ham, Chicken, Potatoes, Green Beans, Coleslaw, Rolls & Butter, Dessert & Drinks. Adults: $10, Children 3-12: $8, under 3: Free. Walk-ins welcome. Take outs are available. For advance tickets, contact Amy Dobbins @ 487-4569. All proceeds benefit the scouting program of Troop #2251.

ALL YOU CAN EAT BREAKFAST ~ Queen of Angels Parish in Central City will be hosting an All You Can Eat Breakfast on March 15th from 8:30-11:00 AM at their St. John Site (162 Wheeler St.). The price is $8 for adults, $4 for children ages 8-4, children under 4 are free. All are welcome! Proceeds benefit the parish.

HEALING MASS ~ Monday, March 16th, 7:00 PM. Very Rev. Alan Thomas Celebrant. Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament. For all in need of physical, emotional or spiritual healing and those who support them. All are welcome! Music led by cathedral prayer group music ministry.

PARISH MISSION ~ The Basilica of St. Michael the Archangel, Loretto will hold their 5th annual Lenten Mission in Honor of Our Lady of Loretto on March 22-27. Fr. Joseph Sioli, St. Louise Parish, Pittsburgh, is the Mission Director. The Mission opens Sunday, March 22 at 7 PM with Prayers, homily & Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament, Bishop Mark Bartchak presiding. Mass with mission prayers & homily will be offered at 7 PM Monday through Friday. Confessions are offered at 6 PM Monday through Friday. Eucharistic Adoration offered at 6 PM Mon.-Fri. Prayer intentions may be sent to: Fr. John D. Byrnes, Rector PO Box 10, Loretto, PA 15940.

INSPIRATIONAL SPEAKER: NINA MARIE CORONA ~ St. Benedict Parish, Bedford St., Johnstown will be hosting Nina Marie Corona for their Lenten Parish Mission, *“Choices: The Hinges of Destiny”.*  This 3-night event will be held from 7:00 – 8:30 PM, March 29, 30, and 31. Each evening will include powerful talks, images, videos, and music for reflection. Practical tools will be offered to help us choose what better leads to a deepening of God’s life in us. Open to all in the Altoona-Johnstown Diocese, tickets are not required. A love offering will be taken. For more information contact Deacon Michael Russo at 814-288-3036 or by email at [michael.russo@atlanticbb.net](mailto:michael.russo@atlanticbb.net).

SEASONED CATHOLIC SINGLES ~ We are looking to see if there is interest in starting a social group for those Catholic singles in our area (single, divorced, separated, widowed) who are more advanced in their life journey, but would like to spend time with other mature single adults who share their faith. Activities could include: watching movies together, dining out, dining in, sporting events like bowling, service projects or worship events. If you have an interest, please contact the Family Life Office at 814-695-5579 to help organize a group in your area.

The Sanctuary Candle will burn for all the

Sick & Shut-Ins of St. Michael Parish

during the week of March 8, 2020.

[](https://images.search.yahoo.com/search/images;_ylt=A0LEV1kSWptXvOwAKINXNyoA;_ylu=X3oDMTEyZGdkcmRoBGNvbG8DYmYxBHBvcwMxBHZ0aWQDQjIwODlfMQRzZWMDc2M-?p=Clipart+of+a+sanctuary+candle&fr=ush-mailn_02&th=110&tw=110&imgurl=http://www.henningers.com/389-168-wall-sanctuary-lamp.jpg&rurl=http://pixshark.com/sanctuary-lamp.htm&size=43KB&name=Sanctuary+Lamp+Bronze+wall+sanctuary+lamp&h=600&w=600&turl=http://ts2.mm.bing.net/th?id=OIP.M68453c67108cdc5ab485d309b395bd03o0&pid=15.1&rs=1&c=1&qlt=95&w=110&h=110#inline&tt=Sanctuary+Lamp+Bronze+wall+sanctuary+lamp&sigr=116keh5le&sigit=13gvlt42j&sigi=11ip0pgm4&sign=119kp6100&sigt=119kp6100)

FINANCE COUNCIL ~ There will be a Finance Council Meeting this Sunday, March 8th in the St. Paul Room after the 10:30 AM Mass.

HOLY NAME SOCIETY ~ Will hold their monthly meeting today, March 8th after the 8:00 AM Mass.

SECOND SUNDAY FOOD COLLECTION ~ This weekend is our Second Sunday Food Collection. Please bring in non-perishable food items or toiletries with you. Monetary donations are also appreciated.

COFFEE AND DONUTS ~ The Holy Name Society will be having coffee and donuts after the 8:00 and 10:30 AM Masses this Sunday, March 8th, in the Church hall. Everyone is invited!

WEDNESDAY EVENING MASS ~ There will be a 6:00 PM Mass every Wednesday during Lent. This is a wonderful opportunity to attend a daily Mass to help us in our Lenten journey.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS ~ On Friday evenings during Lent at 6:00 PM, we will pray the Stations of the Cross. Lent invites us to meditate on the Passion of Christ.

COMBINED CHOIR FOR EASTER ~ Will practice after Friday Stations at 7:00 PM during Lent.

EASTER FLOWERS ~ If you would like to purchase an Easter flower for a living (In Honor Of) or a deceased (In Memory Of) member of your family, please do so by signing the Easter Flower envelope in your packet. The normal offering is $10. Please return the envelopes on or before April 5th. Extra envelopes can be found at the church entrances.

ST. MICHAEL CEMETERY SPRING CLEAN UP ~ Please remove any decorations, flowers, or anything to be saved from St. Michael Cemetery prior to March 30th. Clean up will be March 30th – April 4th.

ST. JOSEPH CEMETERY ASSOCIATION ~ The St. Joseph Cemetery Association will be having a meeting on Tuesday, March 10th at 6:00 PM at the St. Joseph Chapel in Beaverdale.

EASTER NUT ROLLS ~ Most Holy Trinity, South Fork, is taking orders for their Easter Nut Roll Sale. Orders must be placed by Friday, March 20th. Nut Rolls can be picked up on Friday, March 27th at Most Holy Trinity Church Hall from 9:00 – 11:00 AM. A sign-up sheet is on the table in the back of the Church.

BLACK AND INDIAN MISSION COLLECTION ~ Thank you to everyone who participated in the 136th annual Black and Indian Mission Collection last weekend. Your prayerful support enables people to come to know Jesus Christ in African American, Native American, and Alaska Native communities all over the U.S.A. Spreading the Gospel couldn’t happen without your support!

THE ANCIENT ORDER OF HIBERNIANS ~ Blair County Division will be having their annual St. Patrick’s Dinner Dance on Saturday, March 14th. Congressman Dr. John Joyce, of the 13th Congressional District, will be giving a short talk following the dinner. Social begins at 5:00 PM and dinner begins at 6:00 PM. Tickets are $20 for adults & $15 for students. The event will be held in the upstairs ballroom at the Bavarian Hall in Altoona. For tickets, please call Timothy Hallinan at 814-944-6143.

NOVENA TO THE INFANT OF PRAGUE ~ Will begin on Sunday, March 15th at 7:00 PM at St. Andrew Church, Johnstown and will continue every evening until Monday, March 23rd at 7:00 PM. Adoration will be held nightly for 1 hour before the Novena. We will have additional Priests to hear Confessions after Mass every night. All are welcomed!

HALUPKI DINNER ~ Sunday, March 15th, Prince of Peace Parish, Northern Cambria. Dinner includes 2 Halupki, Homemade Halushki, “Real” mashed potatoes, Green Beans, Roll & Butter, Dessert. Basket Auction, 50/50 Raffle Tickets & Cuisinart Deluxe 4-Burner Gas Grill Prize. Tickets available at the door. Adult Dinner, $10, Children 5-10, $5, Take outs available.

INDOOR YARD SALE, BOOK & BAKE SALE ~ Saturday, March 21st, 8 AM - 1 PM, St. Nicholas Church Hall, Nicktown. Sponsored by NCCS Parents for Students.

BASKET PARTY ~ March 14th, New Germany Grove Hall 6-9 PM. Doors open @ 5 PM. Dinner. Admission:$20- includes 25 basket chances, door prize chance and dinner. Sponsored by :TEAM RAYSING HOPE”. Proceeds benefit Relay for Life of Cambria County. Phone: 495-4495

HOLY LAND PILGRIMAGE OF A LIFETIME ~ Have you ever wondered what it would be like to witness the events of the Gospels? Imagine sailing in the boat with the disciples on the Sea of Galilee or standing on the Mount of Beatitudes. A Holy Land experience will put you where the events of the Bible took place. A Holy Land experience will bring the Bible to life, inspire passionate faith and Christian living, energize the call to ministry, and enhance your knowledge and understanding of contemporary and cultural issues of the Holy Land. Our 10-day journey (April 16-26, 2021) will take us to all the major sites such as the Sea of Galilee, the Mount of Beatitudes, the Jordan River, Bethlehem, Nazareth, Jerusalem, and more. Each day Mass will be celebrated at a different holy site. This pilgrimage will sell out fast. If you are interested in joining in walking in the footsteps of Jesus, please contact Deacon Michael Russo (288-3036 or [michael.russo@atlanticbb.net](mailto:michael.russo@atlanticbb.net)).

TURKEY DINNER ~ The Basilica of St. Michael the Archangel Annual Men’s Turkey Dinner on Sunday, March 15th from 11 AM – 3 PM. The 58th year the parish men will prepare and serve roasted turkey dinner with all the trimmings and dessert! Will be at Our Lady of Loretto Hall. Adults $11, Children 10 & under $6, & takeouts $12. Enjoy the Dinner and a Basket Raffle!

*PRECIOUS LIFE*  BREAKFAST ~ Is on Saturday, March 21st at 9 AM at the Holiday Inn downtown Johnstown. Tickets are a $10 donation & may be purchased by visiting our website at PreciousLifeInc.com or by calling Precious Life Office at 814-269-4391. A free will offering will be taken.

SLOVAK CLASSES ~ Queen of Angels Parish in Central City will sponsor a 1 session class on Slovak Lent & Easter customs on Monday, March 30th in their activity center (738 Sunshine Ave.). Presenter will be Dr. Michal Kopanic. He is an expert on Slovak customs and the history of central Europe. His class is free – please call the rectory to register at 754-5224.

GORZKIE ZALE DEVOTIONS ~ Queen of Angels in Central City will celebrate the Polish devotion known as “Gorzkie Zale” or Bitter Lamentations on March 8, 22 & April 5. The devotions begin at 3:00 PM at their Sacred Heart site, 738 Sunshine Ave., Central City. The devotions will be in English. On March 8th the guest homilist will be Fr. Thomas Hart, O.S.B. who will speak on Fasting, The Soul of Prayer-Fr. Thomas is a professed monk of Saint Vincent Archabbey. Fr. Thomas has asked all those who wish to attend his talk to read Matthew chapter 6.



Religious Education And Christian Helping

March 8, 2020

*Junior High Youth Day ~ March 15, 2020*

*Attention JHYD attendees:* Those attending will meet at Bishop Carroll Catholic High School in Ebensburg at 10:45 AM. Lunch will be provided along with a keynote speaker and activities. The day will conclude with a Liturgy celebration with our own Bishop Mark Bartchak, beginning at 4:30 p.m. Students will need picked up again at Bishop Carroll at the conclusion of the liturgy at approximately 5:40 PM.

This year’s theme is:

*“Building Up the Kingdom of God: Gods Work, Our Hands!”*

Will Smith from the Diocese of Greensburg will be the keynote. Will has a genuine love for meeting young people, sharing his faith with them, and helping them understand their relationship with Jesus in a deeper way. He will engage, inspire and entertain them with his talks, humor, games and piano. Parents, please talk to your kids now about attending and sign them up! Your encouragement is needed to get our kids involved.

Questions? Call the RE Office at 495-4873.

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Rite of Sending ~ Our 11th grade Confirmation class along with their Sponsors will attend the 10:30 AM Mass on Sunday, March 29th. The candidates will celebrate their “Rite of Sending” as our parish “sends them off” to receive their Sacrament of Confirmation in April.

Confirmation ~ Our 11th Grade Confirmation class will receive their Sacrament of Confirmation on Thursday, April 16th, 2020. A 7:00 PM Mass will be celebrated at Saint John Gualbert Cathedral in Johnstown. Confirmation Practice will be held on Wednesday evening, April 15th at 6:30 PM.

First Holy Communion ~ Our Second Grade class is preparing to receive their Sacrament of First Holy Communion on

Sunday, May 3rd.

Please continue to remember these students in your prayers as they are preparing for the reception of their Sacraments.

 Sunday, March 8 High School Religious Ed. / 9:00 – 10:20 AM

Daylight Savings Time Begins

Second Sunday Food Pantry Collection

Holy Name Society Meeting / 9:00 AM

Coffee & Donuts / After 8:00 & 10:30 AM Masses

Finance Council Meeting / 11:30 AM

Monday, March 9 Mass / 12:00 PM

Sunday Choir Practice / 7:00 PM

Tuesday, March 10 Mass / 12:00 PM

Boy Scouts / 7:30 – 9:00 PM

St. Joseph Cemetery Association Meeting / St. Joseph Chapel / 6:00 PM

 Wednesday, March 11 Mass / 6:00 PM

Thursday, March 12 Mass / 12:00 PM

K—5 Religious Ed. / 3:30 – 4:30 PM

Saturday Choir Practice / 4:30 PM

Friday, March 13 Mass / 12:00 PM

Stations of the Cross / 6:00 PM

Combined Choir Practice / 7:00 PM

Saturday, March 14 Hall Rental / 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM



UPCOMING EVENTS

March 21 & 22 Catholic Relief Services / Second Collection

March 21 Boy Scouts Ham & Chicken Dinner

March 22 Liturgy Committee Meeting

March 23 Lenten Confessions / St. Michael

CAKE SOCIAL ~ St. Michael Fire Department Ladies Auxiliary will by having a Cake Social on Sunday, March 8th at the St. Michael Firehall. Doors open at 1:00 PM, Social begins at 2:00 PM. Tickets are $3.00.

BASKET SOCIAL ~ The Youth Ministry of Holy Name Parish in Ebensburg will hold a Basket Social on Sunday,

March 22nd. Tickets are $5 for 25 chances. Complimentary desserts provided. Doors open at 12 noon with the raffle starting promptly at 1:30 PM.

SQUARE DANCES ~ Will be held at New Germany Grove on March 21 & April 4. Music by Klassic Kountry from 7-10 PM. Admission $10. Benefits ProLife.

FISH FRY

St. Michael Firehall, St. Michael ~ Every Friday thru Lent. Fried or Baked Fish Dinners or Shrimp Dinners. Eat in from 11 AM – 7 PM. Take outs or local delivery available. Phone at 495-4111.

Immaculate Conception, New Germany ~ Every Friday during Lent including Good Friday. New Germany Grove Hall from 4 – 7 PM. Adults $12, Children $6, Children 5 & Under are Free. Fish Sandwich & French Fries $7. Take outs available until 6:00 PM. Please call 495-4298.

Holy Family Parish, Portage ~ Fish Dinners on Friday, March 6th & 12th and April 3rd from 4-6 PM in Parish Hall. 814-736-4279.

A Message from Tony DeGol

Director of Communications

Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown

March 4, 2020

Over the past few days, local television and newspaper reporters have contacted me to ask what, if anything, the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown is doing amid concerns about the Coronavirus outbreak. I want to take this opportunity to share with clergy, religious, and the faithful some of what I have discussed with the media.

Bishop Mark is concerned with the spiritual and physical well-being of local Catholics. Several weeks ago, he issued flu season directives for all parishes and faith communities in the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown. During this time, the Precious Blood is not being offered, and the faithful are asked to not shake hands during the Sign of Peace. Reception of Holy Communion on the hand is encouraged, however reception on the tongue may not be denied. Those directives will continue until further notice.

Fortunately, as I write this, there are no confirmed cases in PA. The Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown is in contact with public health officials and will continue to monitor the situation. At this time, we urge everyone in the diocese to take common sense measures and precautions to protect everyone.

It is important to remind the faithful that they are not obligated to attend Mass if they are sick. We ask anyone who is not feeling well to please stay home. During this time, it is also a good idea to avoid shaking hands with clergy and others before and after Mass and at church function.

Our Education Office is meeting with principals at our Catholic Schools to discuss the matter. We are urging our educators to take common sense steps such as cleaning and disinfecting and covering their mouth when they cough. Certainly, we urge parents to keep their children home school if they are ill. Teachers and staff who are sick should also stay home.

Our Religious Education Office is also discussing similar steps with directors of religious education at parishes throughout the diocese. Religious Education programs should follow any health directives issued within their local school district.

As noted earlier, the diocese will continue to monitor the situation and respond as developments warrant. This is not a time to panic, however it is a time for awareness, common sense precautions, and good hygiene practices.

On behalf of Bishop Mark, we offer our thoughts and prayers to all who are affected by the coronavirus.



2020 CATHOLIC MINISTRIES DRIVE

Rite of Christian Initiation (RCIA)

Christian Initiation or RCIA is a process that begins with the movement of God’s grace. It leads a person to freely choose the sacraments of baptism, confirmation, and Most Holy Eucharist to become fully initiated into the Catholic Church.

Entering the Church this year are 80 men and women, representing 25 parishes, campus, and correctional institution communities.

It is your support of the Catholic Ministries Drive that funds educational materials, facilities for classes and workshops, and liturgical celebrations welcoming new members into the Church.

Christine and Drew Barkman, who became Catholic last year, today invite others to follow. “The best thing that can happen is that you realize how amazingly beautiful and indescribable the Catholic faith is,” says Christine. Adds Drew, “I am so proud to be Catholic, and I never run out of a way to pray or what to pray for.”

Read more about the Barkmans RCIA journey in the Winter/Lent issue of PROCLAIM *Christ in you Life* magazine or at www. dioceseaj.org (media tab).

Ignite Your Faith and others by supporting the Catholic Ministries Drive today. Mail your gift to the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown, PO Box 409, Hollidaysburg, PA 16648; place in your parish offertory; text: CMDAJ to 555888; or donate online at wwwdioceseaj.org