



Immaculate Conception Parish

First Sunday of Lent

February 18, 2024



Mass Intentions FOR THE WEEK

Sat. 2/17 4:00 PM
John and Irene Komishock by the Turris

Sun. 2/18 11:00 AM
Larry Romanelli by the Stefanick and Zahay Families

Mon. 2/19 7:00 PM
Rev. Maurice Raymond by the Ambrose Family

Tue. 2/20 7:00 AM
Ann Yagalla by Mary Lapchak

Wed. 2/21 7:00 AM
Cathy Hrino by Her Husband Ben

Thur. 2/22 7:00 AM
Ann Boder by Rita Breznak

Fri. 2/23 7:00 AM
Bruce Hopeck by His Wife and Children

Sat. 2/24 4:00 PM
Russell and Carrie Smith by Carol and Family

Sun. 2/25 11:00 AM
Anthony Delucca by His Children



Last Weekend:

Sunday \$3,611.25; Loose \$237; Dues

\$707; Care and Education of Priests \$104; Capital Improvement \$82; Initial Offering \$59; Latin America \$8; Eastern Europe \$123; Ash Wednesday \$267; Other \$50; Poor Box \$135



OUR SACRISTY CANDLE is burning this week in Memory of Steve Korol by Dan Ravina

FORGET-ME-NOT GIFT BAGS are due on the altar by Sunday, March 17th. If you haven't called to register your bag, please do so as soon as possible, even if you have taken a picture on your phone. It is important that no one is forgotten.



The Parish Office will be closed this Monday, February 19th, in observance of Presidents Day.



WELCOME BECKAM FREDERICK BEUHRING to our Parish Family. Beckham is the son of Benjamin and Mary Beth Beuhring and was baptized on Sunday, February 11th.

EASTER BINGO will be held on Sunday, March 17th, in our Parish Center. Early Birds and Specials are \$1.00 Each. Kitchen opens at 4:30 PM. Early Birds start at 5:30 PM. Regular Bingo starts at 6:00 PM. \$35 Cash Prize Per Game. 4 Specials with a \$50 prize each. Last Special \$100 prize. Tricky Trays Will Be Available!!



Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament every third Monday at 6:00 PM before evening mass. The next devotion will be this Monday, February 19th.

Exposition will also take place at 6:00 PM before each of the 7:00 PM Stations of the Cross each Friday in Lent. Why not stop by and spend some time with your Savior.

JUST A REMINDER: Every Friday during Lent is a day of abstinence from meat. Everyone ages 14 and older must abstain from eating meat.



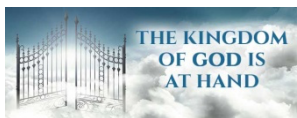
STATIONS OF THE CROSS will be offered every Friday during Lent at noon and again at 7:00 PM. The evening Stations will include Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and

Benediction from 6:00 to 6:55 PM and Stations at 7:00 PM.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION is offered Monday evenings before the 7:00 PM mass (6:00 - 6:50 PM); every Tuesday,

Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday morning from 6:15 - 6:50 AM; and Saturday afternoon from 3:00 - 3:30 PM. Father Mike is leaving the light on for you!





In this weekend's Gospel we hear these words from Jesus: ***"This is the time of fulfillment. The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel."***

I remember as a child we were mandated to "go to confession" every other week. It was easy for us because we lived 6 doors away from the church. On one occasion I heard the priest yelling at someone in the confessional. I was terrified! I left the church and did not go to confession. I was sure I was destined for hell. Fortunately, the young assistant saw what happened. We went to his office and he explained the beauty of the Sacrament of Reconciliation and the comforting words at the end: "Your sins are forgiven." How about you? Have you had difficulty in confession? Are you afraid? Were you yelled at? Are you embarrassed? Come to Reconciliation during Lent (you will never be yelled at in my confessional!).

Lenten Scripture Series at Good Shepherd Church

Rev. Connell A. McHugh, Pastor Emeritus of Good Shepherd, will for the 18th consecutive year offer a series of Scripture presentations in the church hall for 5 consecutive Wednesdays beginning on **February 21**. The presentations will begin at **9:00 AM** and Fr. McHugh's topic will be the Gospel of Mark. He will treat the identity of Mark, sources and date composition of the Gospel, major themes, Jesus' healing ministry, titles of Jesus in Mark, the original and added ending of the Gospel, theological ideas in the Gospel, The Messianic Secret, etc. Father McHugh will show how Mark's Gospel stresses the humanity of Jesus more than any other Gospel, his Passion Narrative, the most sorrowful and how Mark is the chief source for the Gospels of Matthew and Luke. A special session will be held on Mark's Passion Narrative. The scripture sessions are open to the public free of charge. Because of the large attendance at these sessions, we ask that you register since notes will be provided. You may register by calling the office at 570-788-3141 or by stopping in the office.

OUR ROAD TO RESURRECTION RETREAT will be held **MONDAY, FEBRUARY 26th to THURSDAY, February 29th**. Mass will be celebrated each evening at **6:30 PM** at Saint Joseph Church in Hazleton. The service for each evening will be livestreamed, beginning at 6:30 PM, on our website (sscmparish.com). It will remain posted there throughout the entire Lenten Season for those who would like to view it again or later.

MANDATORY BAPTISMAL PREPARATION CLASS will be at **6:00 PM** on **Thursday, April 11th**, in the lower level of Immaculate Conception Church. Use the Chestnut Street entrance (through the garden). Register by calling the Immaculate Conception Parish Office at 570-636-3035 or the Good Shepherd Parish Office at 570-788-3141. Please plan to attend the Baptismal Preparation class well in advance of your baby's birth so that you are aware of all the information necessary to schedule your baby's Baptism.



Let's Ride the Rails and Sail the Seven Seas

Later this year we will be running **two parish** trips:



One to the Grand Canyon which will include 3 days via train.



The other a seven-day cruise to the Caribbean.

There will be a live information meeting for each of these trips on **Thursday, February 22** in the Good Shepherd hall. The Caribbean meeting will be from **5:30 – 6:30 PM**. The Grand Canyon Rail trip will be from **6:30 – 7:30 PM**.

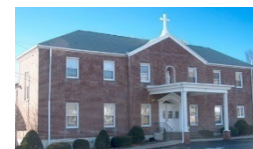
It is the policy of the Diocese of Scranton to report any allegation of sexual abuse of a minor to law enforcement. If you are a victim of sexual abuse committed by a priest, deacon, religious or lay employee or volunteer of the Diocese of Scranton, you are encouraged to immediately report the matter to law enforcement. If any priest, deacon, religious, lay employee or volunteer of the Diocese of Scranton has cause or reason to suspect that a minor has been subjected to any form of abuse, including child sexual abuse, the matter will be reported to law enforcement. It is also the policy of the Diocese to adhere to all civil and state regulations. In accordance with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's Child Protective Services Laws, reports of suspected child abuse should also be made immediately by phone to the 24-Hour Child Abuse hotline (ChildLine) at 1-800-932-0313 or electronically at www.compass.state.pa.us/cwis. To this end, the Diocese is equally committed to adhering to the norms of the Code of Canon Law and to upholding the tenets of the USCCB Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People, which includes supporting victims of sexual abuse in their pursuit of emotional and spiritual well-being. As such, information regarding an allegation of sexual abuse of a minor should also be reported to the Victim Assistance Coordinator Mary Beth Pacuska at 570-862-7551.



Good Shepherd Church

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February 18, 2024



† MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK†

Saturday, February 17

6:00 PM Robert Correll ~ The Shepherd's Hands

Sunday, February 18

8:00 AM Helen Penkala ~ Lectors of Good Shepherd Church

9:30 AM Edward Verbonitz ~ Wife, Marie & Sons, Richard & Robert

Monday, February 19

8:00 AM Health & Blessings for Michael Olsefski ~ Jeff, Ruthie, Chris & Matt Jones

Tuesday, February 20

8:00 AM Health & Blessings Monica ~ Mary Marinock

Wednesday, February 21

8:00 AM Michael Longo Sr. ~ The Popso Family

Thursday, February 22

8:00 AM Carol Vernaccio ~ Gary & JoAnn Rosato

Friday, February 23

8:00 AM Bernard Stratchko ~ Cathy, Tina & Amy

Saturday, February 24

6:00 PM Mary Ellen Lobitz ~ Judi & Joe Yamulla

Sunday, February 25

8:00 AM Mary Lou Fetterman ~ Husband & Children

9:30 AM Barry Fogleman ~ George & Anna Marie Yatsko

Stewardship

February 10 & 11: Loose \$689; Offertory \$4,223; Dues \$1,965; Holy Days \$10; Ash Wednesday \$55, Easter \$20; Care & Education of Priests \$81; Capital Improvement \$70; Eastern Europe \$25; Annual Appeal Supplement \$364.36
Mass Attendance – 531



The **Tabernacle Candle** burns this week for **Edward Verbonitz** by Wife, Marie & Sons, Richard & Robert



The **Rose for Life** this week in memory of **Glen Rinehimer** by Wife, Patsy & Family



Tuesday Night Bingo: Come join us for Bingo at Good Shepherd Church on Tuesday evenings. The kitchen opens at

5:00 PM with special soups, sandwiches, beverages, ethnic foods and a variety of other goodies. Our Early Bird game begins at **6PM**.

2023 Contributions: If you would like a statement of your 2023 contributions please contact the office.



The Valley Food Pantry helps those in need. We have been asked to collect: vegetable soup, Manwich or sloppy joe mix, and canned carrots. Thank you for your donations. If you wish to send a monetary donation, the address is: Valley Food Pantry, PO Box 187 CUCC, Conyngham, PA 18219. Also, to the anonymous donors who have been sending money we greatly appreciate your generosity.

The Valley Food Pantry will be making **Easter boxes** for needy families in the area. Good Shepherd has been asked to contribute brown sugar, coffee and regular tea for the boxes. The deadline for contributions is **Wednesday, March 20**. Thank you for your generosity!

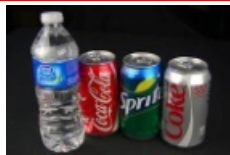
Stitches of Love Ministry is a crochet & knitting ministry that donates our work to those in need. You could meet with the group or stitch from home. Work on your own projects or help with items we wish to create and donate. All are welcome. Our next meeting is Monday at **5:45 PM (Evening)** on **February 19th** in the St. Joseph Room. We hope to see there. We accept donations of yarn, crochet hooks and knitting needles, patterns, stitch markers, etc. Items can be dropped off in the tote in the cry room **Thank you to ALL** who have been generously donating to our ministry!

Signed copies of Father McHugh's poetry book, **Kaleidoscope of the Heart**, will be available for purchase in the church office for \$20.00 during normal business hours.

The Hazleton Chapter of Pennsylvanians for Human Life will be opening space at St Gabriel's Church to help "Families in Need" with material goods for babies and toddlers. We are in need of diapers of all sizes and are asking the parishioners of Good Shepherd if they could help with this by having a Diaper Drive. All you would need to do is purchase some diapers and return them to Good Shepherd Church by **Sunday, March 9**. There will be a box in the vestibule. As a prolife community while it is extremely important to educate on the horrors of abortion it is also important that we help those in need who chose life. Any assistance with this would be greatly appreciated. God bless. Carol Matz, President Hazleton Chapter, Pennsylvanians for Human Life. Thank you!

We welcome **Paislee Ann Jeziorski** and **James Donald Kimock** as our newly baptized of Good Shepherd.

Church Women United invites you to attend World Day of Prayer on Friday, March 1st at 2:00 PM. Come join us and our friends at Providence Place to celebrate this day of prayer. Any questions call Andrea at 570-788-2002.



FESTIVAL CORNER – UPDATE

The 2024 Festival Committee is asking for parishioner support to keep the expense down. For the month of February, we are collecting **Bottles of water and Cans of soda i.e. Coke, Diet Coke, 7Up or Sprite.** For the month of March we will be collecting paper products. Thank you for your support! Please check the expiration dates on all items for consumption.

Help is needed... Waitresses & Waiters are needed for Breakfast Sundays as well as people to set up and clean tables. Call Barbara at 570-436-6596. Thank you!

SAVE THE DATE

Our spring rummage sale will be on **June 8 & 9**. If you are spending time this winter cleaning out and purging, the rummage sale committee will gratefully accept your donations. Call Cathy Penkala (570-436-5017) or Diane Lindsay (570-599-7626) with any questions. Information about renting spaces and/or tables will be posted in April.

Let's Ride the Rails and Sail the Seven Seas

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Holy Hour and Vespers with Bishop Bambera

The annual, deanery-wide Holy Hour with Eucharistic Adoration and Vespers will be celebrated at Most Precious Blood Church, Seybert and Fourth, Hazleton, on **Wednesday, February 21, 2024, at 7:00 PM**. Bishop Bambera will be the homilist for the hour of worship of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. The Faithful of the Hazleton area are encouraged to come and pray with Bishop Bambera during this time of Eucharistic Renewal.

Good Shepherd – Stations of the Cross – Friday afternoons
Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction will be from **3:00 – 3:55 PM** and Stations of the Cross at **4:00 PM**.

PARISH RECORDS UPDATE – We are asking each parishioner / family to complete the following updated form **EVEN IF NOTHING IN YOUR HOUSEHOLD HAS CHANGED**. You can drop the form in the collection basket with your envelopes. Please help us maintain accurate records.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Shine Women's Center is in need of help. Valerie White, the center director, will be retiring. They need to fill her position. This is a part-time 20 hour per week position. If you or someone you know is interested there are details about the job requirements posted on our bulletin board. You can also contact Valerie White at 570-582-6840 with any questions or recommendations. Thank you for your attention and prayers. In addition they are also recruiting for a receptionist.



**Have a song in your heart??? We need you
in our choir. No experience necessary.
Practice on Thursdays from 3:30 – 4:30PM.**



COMING SOON

**YOUR FAVORITE PASTOR CHEFS TAKE TO THEIR KITCHENS A THIRD TIME
- MAKING UP OUR LARGEST COLLAR-NARY CREW TO DATE!**

35 collared cooks with 30+ recipes ...

In an epic food fight vs. hunger and homelessness!

Which priests will prevail as top pastor chefs?

View the videos on any screen beginning Feb. 13, 2024. Support the anti-hunger and anti-homelessness initiatives of Catholic Social Services of the Diocese of Scranton by voting before 5 p.m. on March 26, 2024! Follow Diocese of Scranton on Facebook for live launch event and further details.

PRESENTED BY THE **HawkFamily** FOUNDATION

For sponsorship or other information, call Sandra Snyder at 570-591-5004 or email Sandra-Snyder@dioceseofscranton.org.