Sacraments

Sacrament of Baptism:
Couples anticipating the birth of a child should call the Pastor two or three months prior to the anticipated birth. Chosen Godparents must be able to provide a Sponsor Certificate from their respective parishes. Baptisms are usually scheduled either within the Sunday Liturgy at 10:00 AM or after the 10:00 AM Mass. It is the choice of the parents. Baptism at other times may be arranged with the Pastor.

Sacrament of Marriage:
Couples planning marriage are to make arrangements at least six months before the anticipated marriage. They are to call to register the date of their anticipated marriage in the Parish Mass Book up to one year or more ahead of time. The couple are then to schedule an appointment with the Pastor after the date is registered in the Parish Mass Book.

Sacrament of Holy Orders:
Anyone interested in learning more about the vocation to priesthood, is invited to contact the Pastor or the Diocesan Office of Clergy Vocations at 724-837-0901.

Protecting God’s Children:
If you have any suspicion about sexual or any other abuse of a minor child by anyone, please contact PA Childline immediately at 1-800-932-0313. If the alleged abuser functions in a parish, school or diocesan position as clergy, religious, paid staff or volunteer you are also asked to contact the Bishop’s Delegate for Matters of Sexual Misconduct at 724-837-0901, Ext. 1221, after you have made the Childline report.

Bulletin deadline:
Friday afternoon, ten days prior to the Sunday that you are requesting the notice to appear.
Lenten regulations oblige all Catholics, from the day after their 18th birthday until the day after their 59th birthday, to fast on Good Friday. Fasting means you may eat only one full meal and two smaller meals whose combined quantity does not equal a full meal. You are not permitted to eat food between meals, but consuming ordinary liquids does not break the fast. In addition, all Catholics, 14 and older are to abstain from meat on Fridays of Lent, including Good Friday.

PLEASE NOTE: Votive Candles may not burn during the Easter Triduum. Therefore, requests for candles this week will be held and lit after the Easter Vigil. Likewise, Holy Water is not available until after it is blessed at the Easter Vigil.

**ST. MARY (NATIVITY) CHURCH**

**Ministry of Spiritual Support**
The month of MARCH is dedicated to ST. JOSEPH. In a society that seems to discourage marriage and fatherhood, St. Joseph is an incredible model of a faithful and strong Christian father. May he be our encouragement in these prayers.
That all families may be protected and guided by St. Joseph just as he protected the Holy Family...
That through St. Joseph, we may learn patience, obedience, and trust in the Will of God...

**FOOD DRIVE**
The St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry collection request for the month of MARCH is:
A through G - Canned fruits.
H through N - Canned vegetables.
O through T - Personal hygiene items: soap, toothpaste, deodorant, etc.
U through Z - Pasta, cereal, crackers, cookies, etc.

**Diocesan Lenten Appeal**
The Diocesan Lenten Appeal is well underway. Our Parish’s Diocesan Target is $45,216 while the overall Parish Goal is $60,216. With any funds raised over the Diocesan Target, we hope to finance repairs for the convent roof, now Mary House, Inc. Including returns recorded at the Diocesan Office through March 14, we have received donations and pledges totaling $31,310.00, which is 69% of our Diocesan Target and 52% of our Parish Goal. We thank the 179 households who have responded thus far. If you have no yet made your pledge, please consider making your pledge and returning it in next weekend’s collection or mailing it to the Diocese in the envelope provided. Thank you again for your generous response to the Appeal.

**Palm Sunday Pancake Breakfast**
Our Parish sponsored Boy Scout Troop #620 will hold their annual Palm Sunday Pancake Breakfast this Sunday, March 20, 7:00 AM - 1:00 PM, in the Parish Center. Pancakes, sausage, juice, and coffee will be available at the price of $7 for adults and $3.50 for children under 12. Thank you for supporting the Troop with their activities.

**Thought for the Week**
For Jesus and his followers, Palm Sunday was a joyous time of great celebration. Their mission was moving toward its objective. The message was gaining a hearing. It was now time to move to Jerusalem to share their good news with others who sought the message of hope and new life. Many travelers celebrated with them. They cut leaves from nearby Palm trees and waved them before Jesus. They even doffed some of their garments so that he might pass over them. They may have previously heard Jesus as he taught or known someone who had been healed. What a sense of expectancy they must have had! The more religious among them even saw this as the fulfillment of ancient prophecy, “Blessed is he who comes on the name of the Lord.” But there were others who were skeptics and even upset over what was happening. The Romans probably held a council of war alarmed at the following these people had. The Pharisees were troubled about what Roman authority might do. As we seek to share who we really are during this Lenten season, where do we stand amidst the crowd? If I am unmoved and neutral, I can find myself among the skeptics or even the objectors. If I over-react, I may be mocked and considered foolish. Jesus calls me to share his joy, not rashly, but with the same appreciation that could make stones speak of God's great power and providence (Luke 19:39-40). Here I am amidst the crowd, and Jesus is coming. What response will I give today and throughout my life?

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SERVICES FOR HOLY WEEK AT OUR PARISH

HOLY THURSDAY: March 24
MASS OF THE LORD’S SUPPER - 7:00 PM
THE CHURCH WILL REMAIN OPEN
FOR ADORATION UNTIL 11:00 PM

GOOD FRIDAY: March 25
VENERATION OF THE CROSS
AND COMMUNION - 1:30 PM
TENEBRAE - 8:00 PM

HOLY SATURDAY: March 26
(no Confessions today)
BLESSING OF EASTER FOOD
Noon and 1:30 PM
EASTER VIGIL - 8:30 PM
EASTER SUNDAY: March 27
MASSES - 7:30 AM and 10:00 AM

Easter Decorating
Your help is needed as we decorate the church during Holy Week. All are invited to assist in transforming the church for the Easter Season, especially on Holy Saturday morning, March 26, beginning at 8:30 AM. There’s lots to be done in a few hours and a job for everyone! Décor changes will also be made for Palm Sunday and Holy Thursday. To help with this decorating, contact Joyce Hughes at 724-785-2845 for Friday and Wednesday times. Donation toward Easter Flowers using the envelope in your contribution packet helps us keep our church fresh and fragrant throughout the Easter Season. Thank you for sharing your time, talent, and treasure.

Children’s Faith Formation classes will not be held on Monday, March 21 nor on Monday, March 28. Parents are encouraged to discuss the celebrations of Holy Week with their children as their family participates in these services. Children’s Faith Formation classes will resume on Monday, April 4. May God bless you and guide you in nourishing and deepening your child’s faith.

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY: Adoration, Chaplet, & Procession w/ Bishop Malesic - St. Clair Park, N. Maple Ave, Gbg; Sun, Apr. 3, 3PM.

KNOTS OF COLUMBUS COUNCIL #1275 COMMUNION Mass - St. Joseph Church. Sun., Apr. 3. 9:00 AM.


Early Bulletin Deadline
Due to early submission deadlines, announcements for the Sunday, April 3 bulletin are due to the office by Monday, March 21. Notices should be emailed to nblake@dioceseofgreensburg.org or brought to the Parish Office during office hours.

HOLIDAY Office Hours
The Parish Office will close at noon on Wednesday, March 23, and be closed all day on Holy Thursday, March 24, Good Friday, March 25, and Easter Monday, March 28. Normal office hours will resume at 9:00 AM on Tuesday, March 29.

Christian Mothers
The March meeting of St. Mary (Nativity) Parish Confraternity of Christian Mothers will be held on Wednesday, March 30, at 6:00 PM in the Parish Center. All members are encouraged to attend. Membership is open to all women of the parish.

EMMAUS II
The next gathering of Emmaus II for all high school students grades 9-12 will be this Sunday, March 20, at St. Joseph Church Hall, 6-8PM. Food & fun is always provided!

Rest in Peace
In your kindness please pray for the repose of the soul of Joseph Rura who was buried from our parish recently. May God grant him Eternal Rest and give peace and comfort to his family.
Mass Intentions

SATURDAY
4:30 P.M.  March 19
Frank Stramat
by Family

SUNDAY
March 20 - Palm Sunday
7:30 A.M.  Pro Populo
10:00 A.M.  John M. Koziel
by Parents, John & Rose Marie Koziel

MONDAY
March 21
8:00 A.M.  Edward Guman
by Wife, Helen & Family

TUESDAY
March 22
8:00 A.M.  Marguerite Palovchalk by Fr. Jim Tringhese & Madeline Tringhese
7:00 P.M.  Sacred Heart Prayer Group

WEDNESDAY
March 23
8:00 A.M.  Madeline Shutok by Sister, Theresa Stepanik & Family

THURSDAY
March 24 - Holy Thursday
8:00 A.M.  No Morning Mass
7:00 P.M.  Patrons of the Eucharist
Adoration until 11:00 PM

FRIDAY
March 25 - Good Friday
1:30 P.M.  Veneration of the Cross and Communion
8:00 P.M.  Tenebrae

SATURDAY
March 26 - Holy Saturday
12:00 NOON  Blessing of Easter Foods
1:30 P.M.  Blessing of Easter Foods
Confessions Not Scheduled Today
8:30 P.M.  EASTER VIGIL - Special Intention for the Parish Family

SUNDAY
March 27 - Easter Sunday
7:30 A.M.  Special Intention for the Parish Family
10:00 A.M.  Special Intention for the Parish Family

PLEASE NOTE: There will not be a Regional Mass at Ss. Cyril & Methodius, Fairchance, on Easter Sunday.
Servers, Lectors & Extraordinary Ministers: If you are unable to serve at the Triduum Services for which you volunteered, please contact the Parish Office. Please arrive at least 15 minutes before the service begins.

THURSDAY, MARCH 24
7:00 P.M. Servers: A. Pisano, B. Kushnar, A. Frankenfield, Volunteer.
   Lector: J. Gruskowski.
   E.M.'s: M. Pisano, C. Ostrosky, B. Blake,
         L. Kushnar, D. Centofanti.

FRIDAY, MARCH 25
1:30 P.M. Servers: A. Pisano, B. Kushnar, A. Frankenfield, Volunteer.
   Lectors: D. Dunaway, & J. Gruskowski.
   E.M.'s: P. Semans, L. Kushnar.

SATURDAY, MARCH 26
8:30 P.M. Servers: B. Kushnar, A. Frankenfield, J. Buckel.
   Lectors: M. Gibson, P. Buckel, Jr.
   E.M.'s: N. Blake, B. Blake, D. Kukan,
         L. Kushnar, L. Buckel.

SUNDAY, MARCH 27
7:30 A.M. Servers: A. Pisano.
   Lector: A. Amber.
   E.M.'s: D. Centofanti, L. Baran,
         R. Blycheck.
10:00 A.M. Servers: J. & M. Pierce
   Lector: C. Wanson
   E.M.'s: J. Walters, M. Nicol,
         N. Sethman.

MONEY COUNTERS
Sunday, March 20 - Counting Team 7
Volunteer Counter - Tuesday, March 29, 9:30 AM

COLLECTION REPORT
FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT
Adults: $5,459.00 Youth: $27.00
Energy: $66.00
(Add'l) Easter Flowers: $140.00

Thank You!