



NATIVITY OF OUR LORD PARISH, DURYEA

127 Stephenson Street Tel: 570-457-3502 Fax: 570-451-3341 Office Hours: M-F, 9:00-4:00 unless otherwise noted in bulletin.

E-mail: rectory@nativityduryea.org

Web: www.nativityduryea.org

Nativity of Our Lord Duryea

Rev. Michael M. Bryant *Pastor*

Deacon André Kabacinski, *Parish Deacon*

Masses: Daily, M-T-W-F 7:00am Thursday 6:30pm • Saturday (Vigil)- 4:00 pm • Sunday- 8 & 11am, & 7pm

Confession: Daily, M-T-W-F~6:40-6:55am; Thur. - 6:10-6:25pm • Sat. 3:15-3:45pm, & anytime upon request.



❖ February 23, 2025 ❖

THE SEVENTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME ❖

An Ordinary Reflection- **Messiness of Mercy**

Some of us, myself included, do not particularly like messiness. We generally like things to have some order, not necessarily perfect, but definitely not chaotic. This is true of our relationships, as much as the spaces and places of our lives. That said, the reality is that a lot of life and the ways we live our lives, can get very messy.

This is the challenge of this Sunday's Scripture. Each reading invites us to search through the messiness of relationships, especially those ones involving rivalry and hostility. In the first Book of Samuel, Saul's jealousy toward David is throughout. He has rallied that hatred into an army of mistrust and fear. There can be little doubt that the mess he has created has affected families, friendships, politics and all the people of Israel.

The section of Samuel's story that we hear suggests initially a simple resolution to the problem. Simply take a spear and thrust it into the body of the slumbering Saul. The mess would be over! Yet, the future King David suggests that such violence is not the way to finish-off one's enemy. The Lord God has anointed us to a deeper sense of justice and faithfulness, rather than physical harm and revenge.

Psalms 103 echoes this same call to compassion, "Merciful and gracious is the Lord, slow to anger and abounding in kindness." God's actions toward us ought to be our actions toward one another, even our enemies. We can allow our fears to erase the benefits of God's compassion toward our iniquities and ills. Or, we can enter into the messiness of moving through the webs of relationships that are not always clear, fair or predictable.

Our Gospel from St. Luke is a continuation of Jesus' Sermon on the Mount. Last week we were presented with the reality that we bear responsibility in how the blessedness of God becomes manifest in the world. The poverty, hunger, sadness and hatred that brings woe into people's lives can only be ended with our collaboration with God's blessing. Rejoicing occurs when we work with God to move hearts toward the joy that results from justice and faithfulness.

Jesus follows with an invitation to pay attention to our relationships. He invites us to consider our capacity to love, not according to the world's standards, but guided by this challenge, "Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful." This includes how we judge and condemn people, even our enemies. Too often we determine our verdicts of others based on how we seek to protect our reputations. Too often we measure who a person is from the thoughtless lies and fears of those whose only measuring point is their own selfishness and self-centeredness. Or as St. Paul says, their unwillingness to remain open to "the heavenly one" whose image we all bear. Is this how we would like to be measured? Is this how we want people to determine our being forgiven?



This is the messiness of mercy. There are no limits, both in the giving and receiving of mercy. As Jesus tells us, it is a gift, "a good measure, packed together, shaken down." Our Father without any regard for mess, pours the grace of forgiveness into our laps overflowing. It is meant to be spilled all over the place, into every relationship and every corner of our lives. It rarely makes sense and seems impossible. It however is exactly what God hopes for us - that no matter how messy or difficult, the mercy given is poured unreservedly into the hearts of everyone.

Questions for reflection based on this Sunday's readings:

- ▶ 1 Samuel 12:6,7-9,12-13,22-23 ~ David and Saul. ▶ 1 Corinthians 15: 45-49 ~ We shall bear the image of the heavenly one.
- ▶ Luke 6:27-38 ~ The measure with which you measure will be measured out to you.

Which is the most difficult challenge for me: turning the other cheek when I have been hurt or wronged, refrain from judging others, or giving without repayment?

How will I change my thinking and my behavior?

-Fr. Michael

LITURGICAL CALENDER, DEVOTIONS, AND INTENTIONS
FOR FEB 23RD-MARCH 2, 2025

Mon	24	Weekday	7:00am	A Special Intention
Tue	25	Weekday	7:00am	Fr. Thomas Maloney (by Joan Waters)
Wed	26	Weekday	7:00am 9:00am	Louis Robert & Kathryn Cremard (by M/M Robert McDermott) HRS Mass with Bishop Bambara
Thu	27	<i>St. Gregory of Narek, Abbot & Dr. of the Church</i>	6:30pm	Larry Lynch (by Joyce Jones)
Fri	28	Weekday	7:00am	Lucille Lezinski, Louise Faulent, & Anna Zuby (by family)
Sat	1	Weekday BVM	4:00pm	The Intentions of the Parishioners
Sun	2	THE EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ODINARY TIME	8:00am 11:00am 7:00pm	Len Negvesky (by family) Greg Klobukowski (by family) Michael Rohand (Mr. & Mrs. Gerald Reedy)
VOTIVE CANDLES OFFERINGS				
Sacred Heart of Jesus		Michael Rostkowski (by children)		
Blessed Virgin Mary		A Special Intention		
Saint Joseph		Joseph Chipolis (by Mother)		

Upcoming events...

23 Sunday

-Orders Due for Pre Lent Pierogi Sale

26 Wednesday

- Pre-Lent pierogi pick up from 3-6pm

27 Thursday

- Gift Certificates, 8-10am, Church Hall

M A R C H

3 Monday

-Faith Sharing, 1:00, Pastor's Residence

4 Tuesday- Men's Society meeting @6:30pm

5 ASH WEDNESDAY - Lent Begins

SCHEDULE

Masses with Imposition of Ashes:

7:00am, 9:00am, and 7:00pm

Services with imposition of Ashes:

12:00 noon, and 4:00pm

10 Monday

-Faith Sharing, 1:00, Pastor's Residence

11 Tuesday

- Soup and Spirituality 5:30-7pm

FINANCES AND ONGOING STEWARDSHIP: For the period ending Feb 18: SUNDAY TOTAL \$7,544.10;
Sunday \$4,795.00 (\$1,156.00 OL); Other Envelopes \$2,186.00 (\$270.00 OL); Loose \$231.20;
Church in Latin America - \$331.90 (170.00 Loose)

CATHOLIC MINISTRIES APPEAL: 2024 GOAL \$44,982.00 So Far: \$46,146.00 ... 102.59 %!

Thank You, and may God bless your wonderful generosity!

HOLY FATHER'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR MARCH
For families in crisis

Let us pray that broken families might discover the cure for their wounds through forgiveness, rediscovering each other's gifts, even in their differences.

LENTEN PIEROGI

\$10.00 a dozen, frozen and bagged.

Orders are limited to **2-Dozen per customer**, and orders will be taken on a first come, first serve basis until Sunday, **February 23rd**, or until supplies run out.

Pick-up Date and Times: Wednesday, February 26th, from 3:00 to 6:00 pm at the Church Hall.

Name: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email Address: _____

of Pierogi: 1 Dozen 2 Dozen

Amount Enclosed \$ _____

Please make checks payable to Nativity of Our Lord Parish.

Office use... Order # _____ LB: _____

Paid: _____ CASH or CHECK # _____

March 14th PRE-Order Food Sale

Pick Up 3:00-6:00pm in the Church Hall

I would like...

___ Dozen frozen pierogi (\$10.00 per dozen, limit 2)

___ Quart(s) of Haluski (\$8.00 per Quart)

___ Tray(s) of Unbaked Pizza (\$15.00 per tray)

___ Red Clam Chowder (\$11.00 Qt; \$6.00 Small)

___ Seafood Bisque (\$15.00 Qt; \$8.00 Small)

___ Potato Pancake Batter (\$16.00 per Quart, makes 15-18 Pancakes)

I have enclosed \$ _____ for my order.

Name _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Orders are due by **MONDAY, March 10th**

Potato Pancakes

No Pre-order for Pancakes - Serving HOT - 3:00pm until sold out 3 for \$5.00

WITH PARISH SYMATHY Prayers are requested for the repose of the soul of Lottie Nyzio whose funeral Mass will take place on Tuesday of this week. May the God of all compassion be with her family and friends.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION & FAITH FORMATION: Sunday, February 23rd, Morning classes 9:45-10:45am 1st-6th grades.

COMMUNITY CLEAN UP PROJECT Our parish is sponsoring a Community Clean Up Project this spring to be held Saturday, April 5, 9:00 A.M to 12 noon. Rain date will be April 12. All parishioners are welcome. Any Confirmation students needing service hours are also welcome. Anyone under the age of 17 will need to be accompanied by a parent or an adult. More details and sign-up to come in future bulletins.



GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

We invite any members of the community who may have experienced a loss to call the rectory concerning future sessions. The

gatherings are open to all faiths, both parishioners and non-parishioners. If you or someone you know is experiencing grief, please come and find support in a compassionate, understanding environment. To reserve your spot, please call the rectory at 570-457-3502. We look forward to being a source of comfort and strength during this time of healing.

LENTEN OFFERINGS WITH FR. MICHAEL SOUP AND SPIRITUALITY

Beginning in Lent and ending in Easter time. Delicious Homemade Soups followed by a conversation around... "Are You Good Enough Yet?" written by Fr. Joe Kempf - a book for Perfectionists and all who try too hard and worry too much, instead of believing that we are worthy of peace and are good enough just as we are. **Tuesdays 5:30-7:00 - March 11,18, April 1, 29, May 6 & 13** Contact Parish Office (570-457-3502) to make Reservations for 6 sessions

SOUP AND SPIRITUALITY

Name(s) _____ # attending _____
 Phone # _____
 E-mail _____

NIGHT AT THE RACES sponsored by the Holy Rosary School PTO, Saturday, March 1st. Doors open at 5, Races begin at 6. To sponsor a race (\$50.00), purchase a Horse (\$10.00), for other inquires or to reserve your spot, please call the school at 570-457-3502.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE (I.S.L.I.) March 21st-23rd at Holy Transfiguration Retreat Center in Dalton, PA. The cost for first time participants is \$200.00, which includes meals, housing accommodation, and retreat materials. Nativity of our Lord Parish will assist with this expense for our youth. Consider registering today at dioceseofscranton.org under the tab "International Student Leadership Institute 2025" by March 10th, 2025.

IN THE COMMUNITY:

AT SACRED HEART, DUPONT ● **A Polish Lenten Food Sale** will be held on Ash Wednesday, March 5, from 11 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. in the garage behind the Sacred Heart of Jesus Rectory, 215 Lackawanna Ave., Dupont. Homemade foods include potato pancakes, haluski, meatless soups. Our homemade fresh food will be sold on a first-come, first-served basis. Pierogi will also be available! Call Sacred Heart Rectory for more information.

AT ST. JOSEPH MARELLO, PITTSTON ● **BIG PRIZE BINGO:** Sunday, March 30, with doors opening at 12:30pm; games beginning at 2pm. Prizes include home goods, outdoor items, purses and several CASH PRIZES. Tickets for this bingo will cost \$25 when purchased in advance or \$30 if purchased at the door (if tickets are still available). Bingo tickets include entrance and 20 regular games. Special games will be available for purchase, along with additional regular games, Bingo dabbers and other fun extras. Food and beverages will be available. For tickets or more info, please call the Parish Office at 570-654-6902.

CATHOLIC CHORAL SOCIETY SCHEDULES LENTEN CONCERT at St. Joseph Marello Church, 237 William Street, Pittston, PA, on Sunday, March 9th at 4PM. The concert will also feature the combined parish choirs of St. Joseph Marello and St. John the Evangelist. The concerts are open to the public free of charge. There will be a good will offering. Further information may be obtained by calling 570-575-1040 and also at www.catholicchoralsociety.org.

REBORN BOUTIQUE is a ladies thrift store, open to the public and all proceeds benefit Providence Pregnancy Center of Scranton. Please consider donating your gently used women's clothing, purses, shoes and beauty items. Donations can be dropped off during our store hours, Wed-Fri 11-5 and Sat 10-2. More info on PPC and Reborn Boutique can be found at www.ppcscranton.org. Thank you for supporting life!

AT ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST LENTEN FOODS Each Friday in Lent as well as Good Friday (March 7 through April 18). This year, they will be selling Potato Pancakes and your choice of take-and-heat Red Pizza or White Pizza with Broccoli. Pickup will be from 3:30 to 6:00 PM each Friday in the Msgr. Bendik Pastoral Center (entrance on Church Street). Please call St. John's at 570-654-0053 by Thursday of each week to place your orders.

Faith Sharing Lent 2025: Renewal in the Midst of Challenge

Join together for an hour a week during Lent to faith share around the Lenten Sunday Scripture. We will explore how the Gospel calls us to transformation amidst uncertainty and division, both personally and globally. We will gather at Fr. Michael's residence on Mondays from 1:00 - 2:00 PM. The first gathering will be on **Monday, March 3**, prior to Ash Wednesday. Please fill out the form below OR contact the Parish Office at 570 457-3502 to make a reservation.

Name: _____ Phone Number _____
 E Mail _____

**Faith Sharing
This Lent**



This Bulletin is printed in Loving Memory of...



John A., Theresa and John Jr. Adamiak	Alfred and Judith Akulonis	Anthony and Helen Akulonis	Baranoski, Gregorczyk, Janczyk, Polukard and Negvesky Families	Peter and Victoria Biga Mary Soltysiak	Thomas and Stella Blasco
William, Ann, Gerard Brady Edward, Agnita, Claire Linskey	Ann Brudzinski	Frank & Regina Callis Zielinski and Callis Families	Chelland Family	Louis Robert Cremard Catherine and Louis Cremard	Irene DeAngelo Rev. Andrew J. Marcinko M/M Andrew Marcinko
Carmen and Idena DeBiasi Jason and Louis DeBiasi	Dolan and Roche Family	Louis and Dorothy Doxbeck Family	Dulny and Kapish Families	Martin and Anna Dunay Jacob and Nellie Vitek	Jack and Rita Fischer Zaladonis Family
John T. Freas Edward and Mary Matt	Joseph W. Frew	Dominick "Beaver" Gigliello and Anthony & Mary Naida	Margaret & Leo Glodzik, Sr., Lea Glodzik and Bob Glodzik	Capt. Francis A. Hantz U.S.N. Ret. Frank and Mary Hantz Robert Hynoski	Stanley & Anna Hantz Catherine & Andrew Knopic Stanley Hantz Family
Martin D. Hastie and Martin K. Hastie	Margaret and Jack Hoover	Jasienski, Bozinko and Lewandowski Families	Thomas and Geraldine Judge Judge and Antal Families	Michael and Cecelia Klaus	Kundrat and Simko Families
Bob and Rosemary Kundrat	Joseph Long, Jr., Carl Joseph Tucker, and Butler Family Members	John & Helen Lukus Tom & Mary McAndrew Paczkowski Family	Eugene Madrak	George and Lottie Matrone	Thomas J. and Cecilia McAndrew
Tom and Anna Rita McGlynn	John and Mary Mikovitch Gerald Mikovitch	Mary Ann Namatka Peter & Elizabeth Namatka William & Josephine Sowa	Stanley J. Nazarchuk & Helen A. (Echan) Nazarchuk and All Deceased Family Members	Judy and George Nowakowski	Agnes and Peter Olsheski Olszewski, Grudzinski and Madrak Families
Olszewski, Skowronski and Zoltowski Families	Bernard J. and Theresa Ostrosky	Teresa Ramiza Pace Loretta, Steve & Michael Haluschak, Anthony Pace	Walter F. Perhalla	Micheline & Anthony Perkowski, Stella Hoffman A.Perkowski Family	Stanley A. and Mary Piontek Robert and Ruth Walsh
Stanley & Stella Rava and Family	Rincavage, Billick and Galinas Families	Anthony & Helen Rincavage and Anthony Singer	Michael and Irene Rostkowski Mark Rostkowski	Jess L. & Beatrice Rutkoski	Victor I. Salidas. Anna Salidas Victor J. Salidas
Thomas and Florence Skowronski Wascavage Family Edward A. Jones	Catherine and Bruno Smicherko	Mary and Joseph Solarchik	Margaret Stanavage and Son, Ronnie	George Strus	Joseph Sr., Bertha, Ronald, Francis and Joseph Swenton, Jr. & Michael Matiko
Dominic G. Toraldo	Jacob J. & Pauline M. Vitek and Theresa M. Vitek	Earl & Marion Vrabel and Michael & Grant Larronde	Michael and Jean Wasko	Don Wasta	Vincent & Mary Waszczak Marion and Cathy Bryk
Gertrude and Loretta Yachna & Deceased Yachna Family	<i>Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord.</i>			Margaret Yauk and Romayne Solarchik	Zujkowski, Pribula, Klink and Nasiatka Families

Arcaro & Genell
An Italian Restaurant Since 1962
 Located in the "Pizza Capital of the World"
 443 S. Main Street - Old Forge, PA
 Mark and Angelo Genell
 TAKE-AWAY KITCHEN
 Open Everyday at 11:00

Bernard J. Piontek
Funeral Home Inc.
 "Caring Professionals in Your Time of Need"
 Michelle R. Piontek, Supervisor
 Bernard J. Piontek, Funeral Director
 204 Main St., Duryea • 570-457-4301
www.piontekfuneralhome.com

ATTORNEY ANDREW J. LENTOWSKI
 For Wills, Living Wills, Powers of Attorney, Estates, Personal Injury, and ALL OF YOUR LEGAL NEEDS
 (570) 351-3740 (570) 454-6900

FAMILY PRESCRIPTION
 Best RX-Pricing • Free Delivery
 335 Main St. • Duryea PA
570-457-6789
 "Serving our Community"

LAKE SCRANTON URGENTCARE
 We accept most major insurances including BCBS, Medicare, Geisinger, Aetna, Cigna and more!
 OPEN Mon-Fri 9AM-7PM, Sat-Sun 9AM-5PM
 855.990.CARE(2273)
 1141 Moosic St, Suite 3 Scranton, PA 18505

For Your Peace of Mind
KIESINGER
 Funeral Services Inc.
 Mark Kiesinger, Funeral Director/Supervisor
 255 McALPINE STREET DURYEA, PA • 457-4387

Dr. John A. Fischer
 Optometrist 570-457-9770
 247 Main Street • Duryea, PA
 Comprehensive Exams: Glaucoma, Cataract, Macular Degeneration, Contact Lenses, Fashion, Sport, and Safety Eye Wear

Peoples Security
 Bank & Trust Est. 1905
 Member FDIC
 psbt.com | 888 868 3858

MURPHY SCHARDIEN CPA LLC
 Anne M Schardien CPA
 113 Kimberly Drive, Duryea, PA 18642 570-654-2071
anne@murphyschardiencpa.com
www.murphyschardiencpa.com

ED SCODA
 Plumbing, Heating & Air Conditioning
 910 West Oak Street
 Old Forge, PA 18518
 Phone (570) 457-0572
 Fax (570) 457-0591
 email EdScoda@aol.com

Kobal & Frederickson
 ATTORNEYS AT LAW
 435 Main Street - Moosic
 (570)451-0600
 Brenda M. Kobal, Esq.
 Donald J. Frederickson, Jr., Esq.

Discover the Ancient Arts of Kung Fu & Tai Chi
 Try a 3 Class Trial
 • Discipline
 • Focus
 • Muscle Tone
 • Stress Relief
 • Kids & Adults
 Save \$10 use Code Save10
Rothrock's Kung Fu & Tai Chi
 417 Main St. Duryea 570-457-2591
 Learn More: RothrocksKungFu.com