



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.



❖ March 2, 2025 ❖

THE EIGHTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME ❖

An Ordinary Reflection- **Watch your Mouth!**

When my brother and I were young, my parents, like most parents, taught us well. One area in particular was making sure that we always were respectful in how we spoke to people, especially adults. This meant that we were never to use any “bad words.” Most of the time, we followed these rules, except sometimes when we spoke to each other! Somehow, especially whenever we were playing cards inside the house, we always got in trouble with our mouths! The importance of using “good words” and being considerate and civil to people, has stayed with me. Even as a young adult coming home from college when I would accidentally let a “bad word” slip out, I could hear my stepfather say, “Watch your mouth, Michael!”

The Scriptures this Sunday aren’t only concerned with “watching our mouths.” In a much greater sense, they challenge us to become more aware of both our words and our actions toward one another. The reading from Sirach is a Wisdom teaching. It offers us some simple statements on “skillful living.” Using images relating to the time, pottery and agriculture, the writer of Sirach wants us to realize how are conversations “disclose the bent of one’s mind.” Our true character is very much seen in our speech, including our faults.



The Gospel from St. Luke is the conclusion of Jesus’ Sermon on the Plain. Last Sunday’s reading gave us a high standard for Christian living by calling us to “love your enemies.” How can we possibly live up to such a standard? Is this really what Jesus is calling us to be? Jesus’ teaching this Sunday advances two crucial ways for living out our discipleship. He speaks first of the need for good spiritual guides. Having a guide who is more spiritually hopeful as our teacher, helps us to not walk blindly along paths that take us away from being good, loving persons.

Jesus then exhorts us to watch out for our hypocrisy: do not judge others while failing to examine our own faults. Like Sirach and our Psalm, Jesus uses farming language to speak of the importance of our lives bearing good fruit, not rotten fruit. Without a keen witness to “the wooden beam” that blocks us from our own thorniness, we hypocritically plant seeds in our hearts that too often lead to evil and injustice.

Both our readings from Sirach and Luke, speak to how speech is an action revealing the fruits of who we are. Our words take on a life of their own and lead us away from the our inner depths. This week we approach Lent. It is a time to “watch our mouths” and keep us safe, as St. Paul says, from “the sting of death.” Like a scorpion, we can profoundly and permanently inject poison into our relationships and our world. Is it not time to become more firm in our commitment to Jesus’ discipleship? Is not trusting in a life of resurrection meant to lead our community to a deeper respect of all people? God invites us to “watch our mouths” and cleanse our lives this Lent. 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 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 given is poured unreservedly into the hearts of everyone.

-Fr. Michael

Questions for reflection based on this Sunday’s readings:

► Sirach 27 : 4-7 Praise no one before he speaks.~ ►1 Corinthians 15: 54-58 ~ God gives us victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

► Luke 6: 39-45 ~ From the fullness of the heart the mouth speaks.

What beam in my eye will I remove this Lent?

What fruit will I produce during Lent?
In other words, what two concrete things will I do to see more clearly and contribute to Jesus’ mission?

LITURGICAL CALENDER, DEVOTIONS, AND INTENTIONS

MARCH 3-9, 2025

Mon	3	St. Katherine Drexel, Virgin	7:00am	Andrew & Laura Starzec (by Ann Francis)
Tue	4	St. Casimir	7:00am	Geraldine Judge (by daughter, Sharon Judge)
LENT BEGINS				
Wed	5	Ash Wednesday	7:00am 9:00am 12:00 pm 1:00pm 4:00pm 7:00pm	Danny Tighe (by NOOL Women's Society) Cathy Ryzner (by Joe and Karen Spencer) Ash Wednesday service Ash Wednesday service at Crossin Towers Ash Wednesday service James Nayavich Sr. (by Dorothy Kishel)
Thu	6	Thursday after Ash Wednesday	7:00am	Mike Vichock (by Pat & Valerie Weller)
Fri	7	Saints Perpetua and Felicity, Martyrs	7:00am 9:00am 1:00pm 6:15pm 7:00pm	Beverly Rogalski (30 day Mass) Ann Francis Kurzweil (by John and Nancy Rafferty) Stations of the Cross Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament Stations of the Cross and Benediction
Sat	8	Saint John of God, Religious	4:00pm	Henry and Sophie Dulny (by daughter Beverly Dulny)
Sun	9	First Sunday of Lent	8:00am 11:00am 7:00pm	For the Intentions of the Parishioners James and Betty Murtha (by Ken and Mary Francis) Walter Ameika (by Ed and Kathy Ameika)
VOTIVE CANDLES OFFERINGS				
Sacred Heart of Jesus		Stanley Piontek (by NOOL Women's Society)		
Blessed Virgin Mary		William & Regina Bernard (by Pat & Christa Murman)		
Saint Joseph		Regina & Frank Callis (by daughter, Carol)		

Upcoming events...

3 Monday

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

4 Tuesday- Men's Society meeting, 6:30pm**5 ASH WEDNESDAY - LENT BEGINS****6 Thursday****-PLEASE NOTE CHANGE IN THURSDAY
MASS TIME FOR THIS WEEK**

- School gift certificates 8-10 am.

-Deanery wide Holy Hour with

Bishop Bambera, 7:00pm at

St. John the Evangelist, Pittston

10 Monday

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

11 Tuesday

- Soup and Spirituality 5:30-7pm

-14 Friday

-Lenten Food Sale Pick-up, 3:00pm-6:00pm

-HOT POTATO PANCAKE SALE,

3:00pm until sold out

-Stations of the Cross, 1:00pm and 7:00pm

-Adoration 6:15pm

-18 Tuesday

- Soup and Spirituality 5:30-7pm

20 Thursday

-Women's Society Meeting, 6:30pm

FINANCES AND ONGOING STEWARDSHIP: For the period ending Feb 18: SUNDAY TOTAL \$7,900.21;

Sunday \$5,001.00 (\$1,071.00 OL); Other Envelopes \$1,249.00 (\$147.00 OL); Loose \$278.14;

Winter Utilities - \$1,372.07 (461.07 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!****THE HOLY SEASON OF LENT BEGINS THIS WEEK****ASH WEDNESDAY SCHEDULE**

7:00 am Mass- Ashes

9:00 am Mass- Ashes

12 Noon Liturgy of the Word - Ashes

1:00 pm Service at Crossin Towers - Ashes

4:00 pm Liturgy of the Word - Ashes

7:00 pm Mass- Ashes

Blessed ashes may also be taken in an envelope, a kerchief or napkin to those at home, in the hospital, or to a nursing home, and imposed using one of the following formulas:

**Remember that you are dust,
and to dust you shall return.**

~ Or ~

Repent and Believe in the Gospel.

**ENTER INTO
THE HOLY SEASON
OF LENT**

REGULATIONS FOR LENT 2025

"The season of Lent is penitential in nature and during Lent penance should be not only internal and individual, but also external and social (Sacrosanctum Concilium, No. 5, 109). Pastors are obliged to avoid scheduling activities in the parishes which in any way could possibly detract from the external and social penance required by Lent." -
Diocesan Statute No. 41

Ash Wednesday, March 5, 2025 marks the **beginning of Lent**. The following fast and abstinence regulations are observed:

Ash Wednesday and *Good Friday*, April 18, 2025, are days of fast and abstinence. (One full meal, two partial meals that do not equal the one full meal)

Fridays during Lent are days of abstinence. (No Meat)

All Catholics who have reached their 14th birthday are to abstain from eating meat on Ash Wednesday, Good Friday and on all Fridays during Lent. Children, though not obliged, may follow this rule also, provided their parents or guardians approve, and their health is not at risk.

All Catholics over 18 years of age to the beginning of their 60th year are bound to the obligation of fasting. Those bound by this rule may take only one full meal and two smaller meals unless dispensed or excused. Those not bound by this rule may certainly practice fasting. Children should act in obedience to their parents or guardians, and both children and adults over 60 should consider their particular health needs.

Lent is the Church's great retreat – and MORE is expected from each of us – our homes should be different, our habits should be adjusted. Beyond the bare minimum of getting ashes and eating fish, our lives should reflect, internally and externally, the solemnity of the season – and reflection on our lives over all, our own Baptism – and how we are living up to our promises to reject Satan, sin, and live as people who truly believe in the words of the Faith we profess each week. Let us walk this road with Mary the Mother of God, in our prayer and good works. Let us walk this road with Christ, by taking up our cross daily, and following in His footsteps.

PRAYER

Prayer is an essential part of Lent. In addition to our personal time of prayer at home or in the quiet of a church, you are encouraged to participate in the Masses and services in our parish and community.

DAILY REFLECTION BOOKS are available in church. Two books are available. We ask for a donation if possible to help with expenses, if you are able.

DAILY MASS: M-T-W & F, 7:00 a.m.; Thursdays, 6:30pm (See schedule for this week's change for the Bishop's Holy Hour)

CONFESSIONS "The Light Is On For You" 5:30-7:00 p.m. here at Nativity and throughout the Diocese of Scranton (March 10, 17, 24, 30 and April 7)

ROAD TO RESURRECTION in the Greater Pittston Deanery

In keeping with a long standing tradition for the Roman Catholic parishes of Greater Pittston, the Road to Resurrection continues on Wednesdays of Lent according to the following schedule:

- Wed, Mar 12th at 7:00pm Sacred Heart of Jesus, Dupont
- Wed, Mar 19th at 7:00pm Oblates of St. Joseph Seminary, Laflin
- Wed, March 26th at 7:00pm St. Maria Goretti, Laflin
- Wed, Apr 2nd at 7:00pm Corpus Christi Parish at St. Anthony of Padua Church, Exeter
- Wed, Apr 9th at 7:00pm Nativity of Our Lord Parish at Holy Rosary Church, Duryea

All are welcome and encouraged to make this Journey of faith and prayer.

PARISH MISSION/RETREAT March 25, 26 and 27. Save the dates for these three days of prayer opportunities including faith sharing, presentations, Adoration, fellowship, and evening Masses with guest homilist Fr. Ryan Glenn. More details to follow in future bulletins.

ADORATION of the MOST BLESSED SACRAMENT each Friday from 6:15pm until Stations at 7:00pm. Spend quiet time with Jesus in the Most Blessed Sacrament of the Altar. Pour out your troubles, give thanks for your blessings, and adore our Eucharistic Redeemer even present body, blood, soul and divinity – for us. Benediction will take place following the 7:00pm Stations each week.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS Meditate on the final hours of Christ's Passion as we make the Way of the Cross. Students will 1:00pm each Friday (with the HRS community) and at 7:00pm for this devotion.

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 _____

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

LENTEN HOLY HOUR *with Bishop Bambera*

THURSDAY, MARCH 6
7 P.M.

SAINT JOHN THE EVANGELIST PARISH

35 WILLIAM STREET,
PITTSTON



JUBILEE 2025
PILGRIMS OF HOPE
DIOCESE OF SCRANTON

ALMSGIVING

During Lent we are called upon to share our blessings with the poor and less fortunate in our midst and in the world. Set aside some of your blessings to help others--be it through the Church or other charitable agencies and organizations in our area.

LENTEN RICE BOWL The customary RICE BOWL appeal is being made throughout our country during Lent. Rice Bowl containers and other information may be found on the tables at the doors of our churches. Envelopes are also included in your sets for your convenience.

FASTING AND ABSTINENCE

As stated in the Lenten regulations on page 2, Lent is a time of both fasting and abstinence. Many area churches and groups offer a variety of Lenten meals to help with this practice. Our parish offers the two following opportunities - A heat and eat food sale, and a good old-fashioned sit down or take out dinner. To order, please fill out the forms below or call the rectory at 570-457-3502.

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**

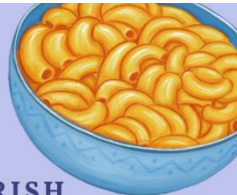
....A L S O same day March 14....

HOT Potato Pancake Sale

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



Dine-In
Or
Take Out



NATIVITY OF OUR LORD PARISH

LENTEN FRIDAY DINNER

Friday, April 4th 4:30 P.M. to 8:00 P.M.

Featuring

BAKED HADDOCK, SMASHED POTATOES & COLESLAW---\$15.00

MACARONI AND CHEESE & STEWED TOMATOES---\$12.00

KIDS MEAL: MACARONI & CHEESE WITH APPLESAUCE---\$8.00

SIDE PORTION OF MAC & CHEESE AVAILABLE---\$5.00

NAME: _____ PHONE: _____

Please Circle One: Take-Out Eat-In

___ FISH DINNER
\$15.00

___ KIDS MAC & CHEESE
\$8.00

___ MAC & CHEESE DINNER
\$12.00

___ SIDE OF MAC & CHEESE
\$5.00

Checks made payable to NOOL Parish

Total Enclosed: _____

Take-Out & Eat-in Reservations due by Sun, March 30th

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM We welcome Violet Ann Marsh who was recently baptized at our Parish on Feb 23rd. She received her new life in Christ in the Sacrament, may our Lord fill her with many graces and blessings through her Christian life. We offer our parish congratulations and blessings to her family on this happy occasion.

WITH PARISH SYMATHY Prayers are requested for the repose of the soul of Jamie Yachna whose funeral Mass was held on Friday. May the God of all compassion be with his family.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION & FAITH FORMATION: Sunday, March 2nd, Morning classes 9:45-10:45am 1st-6th grades. Evening Classes 5:15pm-6:45pm, 7th-8th grades.

BAKER'S NEEDED! We are in need of homemade baked good for our Homemade Lenten Food Take-Out Sale on Friday March 14th. Brownies, cupcakes, squares, cookies, or cakes are welcome and appreciated. Just drop off your delicacies at the church hall on Friday morning prior to the bake sale or Thursday at the rectory. Please indicate if your pastry contains nuts! If you have any questions, you may contact Debbie at 570- 947-6271. Thank you for your support!

COMMUNITY CLEAN UP PROJECT Anyone interested in participating in the Keep PA Beautiful clean up project are asked to sign up by contacting the rectory by March 11 so that supplies can be ordered. Clean Up date is Saturday, April 5, 9:00am until noon with rain date April 12. All parishioners are welcome. Confirmation students needing service hours are also invited. Any one under 17 will need an accompanying adult.



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. The next session will be held Thursday, March 13th at 4:45 pm @ the rectory.

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.

ANNUAL NOVENA TO ST. JOSEPH will begin on Monday, March 10th, at the Oblates of St. Joseph Chapel, Route 315, Laflin, with Masses daily at 12 Noon and 7:00 p.m. This year's Novena will be preached by Oblate Father Larry Toschi, O.S.J., internationally recognized theologian on St. Joseph. Masses will be preceded by confessions and the rosary, concluding with novena devotions. The Novena concludes on the Feast of St. Joseph, Wednesday, March 19th, with a solemn Noon Mass celebrated by Bishop Joseph C. Bambera.

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.

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.

A FASTNACHT DAY CELEBRATION YOU DOUGH-NUT WANT TO MISS!

HELP FIGHT HUNGER & HOMELESSNESS AT OUR RECTORY, SET, COOK! 2025 LAUNCH PARTY, AND BE AMONG THE FIRST TO TASTE SAINTS BE PRAISED! AN IRISH RED ALE BREWED IN HONOR OF SS. PATRICK & JOSEPH!

ENJOY OUR 2ND COLLAR-BORATION BREW AS IMAGINED BY FR. BRIAN VAN FOSSEN PLUS: OTHER GREAT BEER/CRAFT COCKTAILS - TASTY EATS (BREAKER PIZZA & APPS W/ HOMEMADE BONSALL FARMS DOUGHNUTS FOR DESSERT), OUR FAMOUS PUB-TUNE-SINGING PRIESTS, LED BY FR. JAMES PAISLEY & THE DIOCESE'S TRAVELING TROUBADOURS, AND: A BONSALL FARMS EGG RAFFLE - WIN ONE OF THREE FLATS (30-COUNT) OF FARM-FRESH EGGS! - A KITCHEN TECHNOLOGY RAFFLE AND A DIVINE WINE RAFFLE!

WHEN: 5 P.M. - ??? - FAT TUESDAY, MARCH 4
WHERE: BREAKER BREWING COMPANY, 787 E. NORTHAMPTON ST., W-B TWP.
TICKETS: \$20. INCLUDES FOOD + DESSERT + ONE SAINTS BE PRAISED! DRAFT

SCAN TO PURCHASE TICKET/S!

We do not live by bread alone



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
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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
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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

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