



# 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](mailto:rectory@nativityduryea.org)

Web: [www.nativityduryea.org](http://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.



❖ APRIL 6, 2025



THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT



*A Lenten Reflection-*

## Keep Hoping

Another familiar gospel, another call to “newness,” and another Sunday about how to find hope in the midst of confusion, fear, and sin – these are the scriptural messages we hear once again this Sunday. Last Sunday, St. Paul referred to us as a “new creation” with a commitment to the ministry of reconciliation. This Sunday, it is the prophet Isaiah who reminds us that the Lord is “doing something new.” Isaiah is specifically announcing this for those who will be returning from exile in Babylon, yet it is also an important message for us as we face the “wastelands” that often seem to surround us.



St. Paul’s letter this Sunday is to the Philippians. He writes this letter in jail, not quite sure of his future. However, despite the unknown, he speaks to the people in Phillipi in a very positive way. There is a joy that fills his heart as he calls them, and us, to a deeper unity. Where does this delight come from? He has embraced a strong appreciation that Christ Jesus has taken ownership of him and he in response continues to pursue in hope what this possession brings into his daily living.

The Gospel from John leaves much to the imagination. It gives us a straight-forward description of an encounter in Jesus’ life once again with the scribes and Pharisees. However, all the specific details of the story not only leaves those there at the Jerusalem Temple that morning bewildered; we, the new “jury” in this “trial” scene of the adulterous woman, probably find ourselves filled with questions.



So, what might be the message to take home into our lives? Is there any “newness” in our relationship with Jesus as we approach the devastation of Holy Week and the exultation of Easter morning? In the midst of the “jailtime” that we sometimes feel about our lives, as we pursue so many things other than the hope offered us by Jesus, can we really begin to turn our lives toward unity with Christ Jesus and one another? How believing are we of God’s mercy when in John’s Gospel he challenges us with two powerful statements – “Let the one among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her” and “Neither do I condemn you. Go, and from now on do not sin anymore”?

These and probably many more questions, fill our lives every day. In the business of our lives often the impact these queries have on our relationship to God get lost. Who has time to become more aware of what we need spiritually? Yet, without a new approach to where God “fits in” our lives, a deeper understanding that God truly chooses to possess every aspect of us despite the past, and an acceptance that sinful actions are in God’s hands who has no stones to throw and who simply tells us to sin no more – we remain in the middle of a lot of spiritual rubbish.

It seems now is the time as we come to the end of this Lenten journey to start running towards the most important goal of our lives, if we haven’t already. But we need not worry that even though it might seem there are a lot of stone holders awaiting for us to get caught in the act of sinning once again, Jesus simply writes on the ground the two words we might need to see – *Keep Hoping!*

*Fr. Michael*



Questions for reflection based on this Sunday’s readings:

- Isaiah 43: 16-21~ The mystery of the Passover will be made new.
- Philippians 3:8-14 ~ Paul desires a share in the paschal mystery of the Lord.
- John 8:1-11 ~ No one is without sin except our merciful judge.

To whom can I extend the mercy that God had extended me?

## LITURGICAL CALENDAR, DEVOTIONS, AND INTENTIONS

APRIL 7-13TH, 2025

Mon	7	St. John the Baptist de la Salle, Priest	7:00 am 5:30-7pm	Julia Skowronski (by Stan & Alice Cislo) Confessions – <i>The Light is on for You</i>
Tue	8	Lenten Weekday	7:00am	James Kersey (by Plisga & Rutkowski family)
Wed	9	Lenten Weekday	7:00am	Kenneth Francis Sr. (by Ken & Mary Francis)
Thu	10	Lenten Weekday	6:30pm	Bernadine Hughes (30-day Mass)
Fri	11	St. Stanislaus, Bishop & Martyr	7:00am 1:00pm 6:15pm 7:00pm	Anna & Chester Skowronski (by Valerie Olszewski) <i>Living Stations of the Cross</i> <i>Adoration of The Most Blessed Sacrament</i> <i>Living Stations of the Cross and Benediction</i>
Sat	12	Lenten Weekday	4:00pm	Richard Slatky (by Ronnie & Carla Moran)
Sun	13	Palm Sunday of the Passion of The Lord	8:00am 11:00am 7:00pm	Cecilia Sepcoski (by Brielle & Braylan Scheland) For the Intentions of the Parishioners Shirley Baldauff (by Rosentel Family)

## VOTIVE CANDLES OFFERINGS

*No votive candles will burn this week and next,  
out of reverence for our Lord's sacred Passion.*

Upcoming April events...

**10 Thursday**

-Gift Certificates 8-10am.

- Women's Soc. Meeting @ rectory 6:30pm

-Men's Society Meeting in Hall @ 6:30pm

**11 Friday**- *Living Stations @ 1pm and 7pm***13 Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion**

-Confirmation Rehearsal, 1:00pm

**17 Holy Thursday****18 Good Friday**-7pm *Stations of The Cross***19 Holy Saturday**

-Blessing of the baskets @ 2pm and 4pm

**20 Easter Sunday of the Resurrection****21 Easter Monday**

-First Communion Rehearsal, 6:00pm

**22 Easter Tuesday**

-Celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation with Bishop Bambara, 5:30

**28 Monday**

-First Communion Rehearsal, 6:00pm

**29- Tuesday**

-Soup and Spirituality @530-7pm

**FINANCES AND ONGOING STEWARDSHIP:** For the period ending April 1: SUNDAY TOTAL \$7,207.70;

Sunday \$4,821.00 (\$1,429.00 OL); Other Envelopes \$1,373.00 (\$232.00 OL); Loose \$339.00;

Liturgy Needs: \$674.70 (282.70 2<sup>nd</sup> Collection)**CATHOLIC MINISTRIES APPEAL: 2024 GOAL \$44,982.00 So Far: \$46,896.00! ... 105.03 %!****Thank You, and may God bless your wonderful generosity!**

Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday of Holy Week ~ Daily Mass at 7:00 am

Mass of the Holy Chrism at the Cathedral on Tuesday, April 15, at 4:00pm

**THE PASCHAL TRIDUUM****HOLY THURSDAY – April 17**

## ❖ Morning Prayer ~ 8:00 am

*Our church will be open for private prayer throughout the day.*

## ✠ Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper ~ 7:00 pm

*Following Mass, the Church will remain open for prayer in the evening until Night Prayer.*

## ❖ Night Prayer ~ 10:30 pm

**GOOD FRIDAY – April 18**

## ❖ Morning Prayer ~ 8:00 am

*Our church will be open for private prayer throughout the day.*

## ✠ Commemoration of the Lord's Passion ~ 2:00 pm

## ❖ Stations of the Cross ~ 7:00 pm

**HOLY SATURDAY – April 19**

## ❖ Morning Prayer ~ 8:00 am

*Our church will be open for private prayer throughout the day. (There is no 4:00 p.m. Mass)*

## ✠ Blessing of Baskets ~ 2:00 and 4:00 in church

## ✠ The Easter Vigil in the Holy Night ~ 8:00 pm

**EASTER SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD – April 20**

## ✠ Easter Masses ~ 8:00 am, 9:30 am, and 11:00 am

## ❖ Evening Prayer ~ 6:00 pm (there is NO 7:00 pm Mass)



**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION & FAITH FORMATION:** Sunday, March 30th, Morning classes 9:45-10:45am for 1<sup>st</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grades

**ROAD TO RESURRECTION** in the Greater Pittston Deanery will take place here at Nativity of Our Lord, **Wed, Apr 9th at 7:00pm.**

**LIVING STATIONS** Presented by the Eighth Grade of Holy Rosary School will take place on Friday of this week at 1:00 and 7:00pm.

**HRS GIFT CERTIFICATES:** Thursday April 10<sup>th</sup> 8-10am (last sales date before Easter) in Church Hall. No Sales Holy Thursday April 17<sup>th</sup>.

**CONFIRMATION REHEARSAL WITH SPONSORS** -Palm Sunday, April 13, 1:00pm in Church

**CEO FOOD PANTRY VOLUNTEER SESSION:** our next food pantry volunteer session is Wednesday April 16th, 5-7PM, at the CEO Food Pantry, 185 Research Drive, Pittston. Please call the rectory at 570-457-3502 for further information or to volunteer.

**REDNER'S TAPES WANTED** The National Junior Honor Society of Holy Rosary School is collecting Redner's Save-A-Tape receipts to help earn money to support our various service projects. You must use your Redner's Rewards Card for the Save-a-Tape Amount to be printed. Please put them in an envelope labeled NJHS of Holy Rosary. Thank you in advance.

## You're Invited!

Nativity of Our Lord Women's Society Spring Social  
Sunday, April 27, 2025, from 1:00-4:00pm at  
Arcaro and Genell, 443 S. Main Street Old Forge

Our Spring Social will feature beautifully decorated spring themed tables, a chance to win a theme basket, and a light lunch menu, appetizers and desserts. If anyone is interested in donating a theme basket for the Social, we would appreciate it! Please contact Michelle Piontek at 570-498-9442 for information and if you need a basket pick up! **Cost is \$30.00 per person and reservations need to be made by April 20, 2025.** Please fill out the form below and return it with payment to the rectory via the collection basket, by mail or in person. We hope that you can join us for an afternoon of great food and fellowship!

### Menu:

- **Appetizers:** Assorted Pizza, Homemade Stromboli, Gluten-free/Vegan bean salad.
- **Salad:** House Antipasto with Italian meats and cheese.
- **Soup of the day**
- **Meal:** Assorted Sandwiches & Wraps Platter (Turkey, Italian & Ham: Chicken Salad & Tuna)
- Or Steak & Cheese sliders
- **Coffee, Soda & Dessert**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Number Attending \_\_\_\_\_  
Payment Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to the Nativity of Our Lord Women's Society.  
Reply with payment by April 20, 2025.

### IN THE COMMUNITY:

**AT SARED HEART, DUPONT** ● Gorzkie Żale, the traditional Polish-language Lenten devotion known as the "Bitter Lamentations," will be held on **Sunday, April 6, at 3 pm** in Sacred Heart of Jesus Church, 215 Lackawanna Ave., Dupont. The devotion is a sung reflection on the Passion of Christ and his Sorrowful Mother. Msgr. Neil Van Loon, pastor of St. Paul's Church in Scranton, will be the guest homilist. A light reception will follow in the church hall. All are invited to attend.

**AT ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST, PITTSTON** ● **MARYWOOD CHAMBER SINGERS CONCERT** The Chamber Singers of Marywood University under the direction of Dr. Rick Hoffenberg will present a Spring Concert at St John's on **Sunday, April 27 at 3:00 PM.** Their Spring 2025 concert program includes music by Lasso, Łukaszewski, Ešenvalds, Elgar, Lauridsen, William Henry Harris, Christopher Harris, and Kevin Puts, as well as a set of vocal jazz.

**AT THE DURYEA AMERICAN LEGION** ● **PASTA DINNER** on Saturday May 3rd from 3:00 to 7:00 p.m. at the Duryea American Legion Post 585 at 3:29 Main Street Duryea. Cost of the dinner is \$12 and includes penne pasta meatballs, homemade meat sauce, side salad with Italian dressing packet, and bread and butter. Eat in our dining area or take out. Tickets are available from sales members or at the door the day of the event.





### FIAT DAYS

• HIGH SCHOOL SUMMER CAMP •

**JUNE 23-25**

- Location: Marywood University
- Open to rising sophomores through graduating seniors in high school
- Adventure, Prayer, Dynamic Talks, Mass, Adoration, and Outdoor Activities
- Learn about vocations, better discern where God is calling you, and chat with religious sisters, priests, & Bishop Bambera
- Cost is \$25.

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: JUNE 16TH





### QUO VADIS DAYS

• HIGH SCHOOL SUMMER CAMP •

**JUNE 23-25**

- Location: Marywood University
- Open to rising sophomores through graduating seniors in high school
- Adventure, Prayer, Dynamic Talks, Mass, Adoration, and Outdoor Activities
- Learn about vocations, better discern where God is calling you, and chat with priests, seminarians, and Bishop Bambera
- Cost is \$25.

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: JUNE 16TH



## CONFESSION SCHEDULE

**Monday~ April 7**  
5:30-7:00pm

**Monday ~ April 14**  
Deanery Penance Service 6:30 pm at  
St. John's in Pittston

**Wednesday ~April 16**  
5:30 pm to 7:00 pm

**Good Friday ~April 18**  
10:00 -11:00 am

**There are no Confessions on Holy Saturday**





*This Bulletin is printed in Loving Memory of...*



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