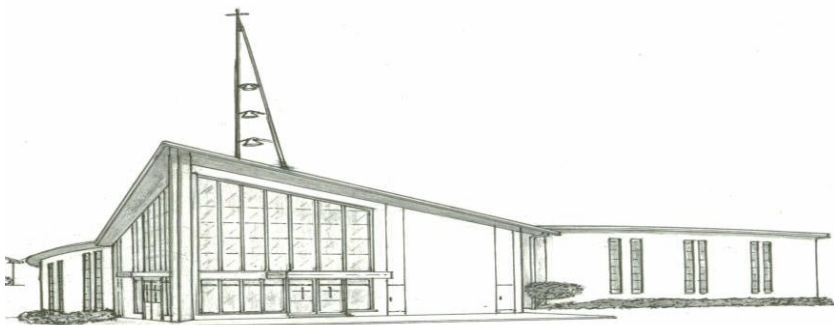


Church of Saint Philip Neri

Pennsburg, PA 18073

Feb. 14, 2016



Rev. Robert A. Roncase, Pastor
Rev. Raymond W. Smart, retired; resident
Deacon Michael J. Franks
Deacon Mark J. Meinzer, Business Manager
Rev. Edmond J. Speitel, Pastor Emeritus
Rev. John J. Scarcia, Retired Pastor
Shirley Misiak, Office Manager
Catherine E. Faust, Director of Music
Wendy Benner, Coordinator of PREP/Religious ED
Tom Dewees, Director Catholic Family Life Center
Diane Cunningham, Adm. Assistant CFLC
Anita Fuhs, Youth Minister
Sister Patricia Kelly, M.S.B.T., Parish Outreach

Parish Phone Numbers:

Rectory	215.679.9275
Youth Ministry	267.733.2572
Religious Education/PREP	215.679.7839
Catholic Family Life Center	215.679.2237
Parish Hall	215.679.8116
Parish Outreach	215.679.2282
Neri Center	215.679.6490

Fax Numbers:

Rectory	215.679.0386
Religious Education/PREP	215.679.8370
Catholic Family Life Center	215.679.8370

Church & Rectory Address:

1325 Kliner Rd; Pennsburg 18073

Hours: 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM
Email Address: smisiak@spnparish.org
Website Address: www.spnparish.org

Religious Education Office address & hours:

26 E. Sixth Street, East Greenville, PA 18041
Monday & Friday: Offices are closed
Tuesday & Thursday: 8:00 am – 4:00 pm
Wednesday: 12:00 pm – 8:00 pm
Email address: spnprep@comcast.net

Neri Center Address

575 Main Street, East Greenville, PA 18041

Catholic Family Life Center Address

26 E. Sixth Street, East Greenville, PA 18041
Email address: tdewees@spncflc.org
Website Address: www.catholicfamilylifecenter.com

Youth Ministry Office hours: (East Greenville)

Tuesday & Thursday: 9:00 am - 2:00 pm
Wednesday: 2:00 pm - 6:00 pm
Email address: spnym@comcast.net

ROSARY: Prayed in the Chapel

Saturday after the 9:00 AM Mass
Monday at 1:00 PM

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

1st Friday from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM in the Chapel,
followed by Benediction.

FLORAL ARRANGEMENTS

For a floral arrangement to be placed at the altar,
please call the rectory.

SUNDAY MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday – Vigil Mass – 5:00 PM
Sunday – 7:30, 9:30, 11:00 AM
Holy Day Masses as announced

WEEKDAY MASS SCHEDULE - St. Anne Chapel

The Chapel is open Monday thru Saturday until
7:00 PM for your visits to the Blessed Sacrament.

Daily Mass is celebrated in the
Chapel attached to the rectory:
Monday - 5:00 PM
Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday - 8:00 AM
Saturday - 9:00 AM

CONFESSIONS

Saturdays: 4:00 – 4:45 PM *or*:
at the Rectory BY APPOINTMENT anytime.

BAPTISMS: Please call the Rectory to schedule
2nd Sunday Baptisms are held **at** the 11 AM Mass
3rd Sunday Baptisms are held at 12:30 PM

SPONSORS: Sponsors for Baptism and Confirmation
need to be at least 16 years of age, to be confirmed,
attend Mass weekly, and if married, be in a valid
marriage.

PRE-JORDAN CLASSES

1st Monday of every month at 7:00 PM in the
Rectory meeting room.

MARRIAGES

Arrangements should be made at least SIX
MONTHS before the date of the wedding.

NEW PARISHIONERS

Welcome to your new home!
Please stop by or call the rectory between 9:00 am -
4:00 pm to fill out a registration card.

SHUT-INS

Please call the Parish Outreach Office.

SACRAMENT OF THE ANOINTING OF THE SICK

Please call the Rectory.

OUR PARISH MISSION STATEMENT

We are the Catholic Parish Community of St. Philip Neri, answering Christ's call to discipleship through Word, Sacrament and Service. We proclaim God's hope and love to all.

Serving at Mass

Extraordinary Ministers

5:00 pm - Annemarie Quigley
Jim Quigley
Priest
Deacon
Dave Boone
Teri Boone

7:30 am - Jo Ellen Carr
Ray Carr
Priest
Deacon
Mary R. Giambrone
Barbara Jaruszewski

9:30 am - Bob Brennan
Eleanor Brennan
Priest
Deacon
Keith Greczek
Stephanie Greczek

11:00 am - Amanda Charlton
Kevin Charlton
Priest
Deacon
Maryanne Charlton
LaRue Emmell
Mary Goodfellow
Marlene Leidy
Doug DiTondo
Linda DiTondo
Lisa Edleman
Mike Edleman

First Sunday of Lent

February 14, 2016

Monday, February 15

6:30 am - Lenten Communion Service
5:00 pm - Lester Kemp,
(Jack & Catherine Cahill)

Tuesday, February 16

6:30 am - Lenten Communion Service
8:00 am - Jim Brady,
(SPN Daily Mass Attendees)

Wednesday, February 17, The Seven Holy Founders of the Servite Order

6:30 am - Lenten Communion Service
8:00 am - Karl Heebner, (Stan Mikanowicz)

Feb. 21

Lectors

Pat Kennedy

Pete Frank
Shaun Snyder

Mary Souder
Chris Meinzer

Betty Herman

Thursday, February 18

6:30 am - Lenten Communion Service
8:00 am - John Ruby, (KOC Council 6614)
7:00 pm - Stations of the Cross

Friday, February 19

6:30 am - Mass in Chapel,
Raymond & Catherine Shuhler,
(Nancy & family)
8:00 am - Stella Roney, (Tom Latshaw)

Saturday, February 20

9:00 am - Paul & Vera Fronheiser, (Estate)
5:00 pm - First Anniversary, Stella Swierzewski,
(Tom & Cindy Dallas)

Second Sunday of Lent

February 21, 2016

7:30 am - Joseph Josko III,
(Francis & Delia Grim)
9:30 am - For the living and deceased Members
of the Parish.
11:00 am - Dorothy Smith,
(Bob & Barbara Schwind)

WE INVITE YOUR PRAYERS

For the sick, those in hospitals, nursing homes, also for their caregivers; and all those we hold close in our hearts.

Please pray in particular for **Joseph Iski & Thaddeus Rutkowski.**

For those who have died, and in particular for **Charles Buck, Richard Interrante, & Paul Kelsch** (brother of Mary Ann Kelsch), grant them eternal rest and peace.

FEBRUARY 2016: This week at a glance

Sunday - February 14

Children's Liturgy of the Word at the 9:30 am Mass
Little Church 9:30 am Parish Hall
Men's Basketball 8:00 pm Parish Hall
Parish Breakfast 7:00 am - 12:30 pm Parish Hall

Monday - February 15

Holy Rosary Mass 1:00 pm Chapel
SPN Quilting 1:30 pm Parish Hall

Tuesday - February 16

Boy Scouts 7:00 pm Parish Hall
Historical Committee Meeting 7:00 pm SPN CFLC

Wednesday - February 17

PREP/Religious Education 6:30 pm SPN CFLC

Thursday - February 18

Bible Study 7:00 pm Neri Center
RCIA 7:00 pm Rectory
Stations of the Cross 7:00 pm Church

Friday – February 19

Bible Study 9:00 am Neri Center
Frontier Girls 6:30 pm Parish Hall
Lenten Fish Fry (Lunch) 11:00 am - 2:00 pm Parish Hall
Lenten Fish Fry (Dinner) 4:30 pm - 6:30 pm Parish Hall

Saturday - February 20

Charismatic Prayer Group 10:00 am Chapel

Sunday - February 21

Children's Liturgy of the Word at the 9:30 am Mass
Little Church 9:30 am Parish Hall
Men's Basketball 8:00 pm Parish Hall
Youth Ministry 5:30 pm Parish Hall

Upcoming Meetings

Holy Rosary Hour - Monday, February 22 - 1:00 pm - Chapel
SPN Quilting - Monday, February 22 - 1:30 pm - Parish Hall
Boy Scouts - Tuesday, February 23 - 7:00 pm - Parish Hall
PREP/Religious Education - Wednesday, February 24 - Catholic Family Life Center
Bible Study - Thursday, February 25 - 7:00 pm - Neri Center
NO Men's Basketball - Thursday, February 25
NO RCIA - Thursday, February 25 -
Stations of the Cross - Thursday, February 25 - 7:00 pm in Church
Bible Study - Friday, February 26 - 9:00 am - Neri Center
Lenten Fish Fry (Lunch) - Friday, February 26 - 11:00 am - 2:00 pm -Parish Hall
Lenten Fish Fry (Dinner) - Friday, February 26 - 4:30 pm - 6:30 pm - Parish Hall
Frontier Girls - Friday, February 26 - 6:30 pm - Parish Hall
Children's Liturgy of the Word - Sunday, February 28 - at 9:30 am Mass
Little Church - Sunday, February 28 - 9:30 am - Parish Hall Meeting Rooms
Men's Basketball - Sunday, February 28 - 8:00 pm - 10:00 pm - Parish Hall

PARISH NEWS

St. Philip Neri Parish Council Members at large welcomes any questions or comments you may have.

Names/email addresses:

Tony Bauer ajbauer337@gmail.com
Matthew Fuhs matthew.fuhs@comcast.net
Dave Klauder stickman@enter.net
Marlene Leidy marleneleidy@comcast.net
Ed Tryon greeneng2001@yahoo.com
Theresa Walker cheg1978@comcast.net

SUNDAY COLLECTIONS

February 8, 2015	February 7, 2016
Envelopes: \$ 6,459.00	\$ 7,138.00
Online: 1,850.00	1,986.00
Loose: 815.00	1,235.00
Children: 49.00	14.00
Total: \$ 9,173.00	\$10,373.00

ONLINE GIVING

Go green with St. Philip Neri Church by signing up for **Online Giving**. Online giving is a secure and personalized way to give to the parish. It also can stand on its own as a means of a donation or can be used in conjunction with your offering envelopes. You have the option to keep receiving your regular offering envelope packets if you wish. (www.spnparish.org)

Special Second Collections:

February 2016

For those who do not receive Sunday collection envelopes or if you are an On-Line giver, the following second collections are:
Ash Wednesday, Care of Aging/Ill Priests, Parish Debt collection 1st Qtr & Sharing Our Blessings 100th Anniversary.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Stations of the Cross during Lent will be held on the Thursday evenings in Church at 7PM

February 11th; 18th; 25th;

March 3rd; 10th; & 17th

On each of these evenings, we invite you to our Parish Hall small Meeting Room to join us in Operation Rice Bowl Dinner.

Dinner will be very simple; homemade soup, bread and a drink. (at least two different kinds of soup will be offered for dinner).

Homemade soup will be provided free of charge from 6PM to 6:45PM, followed by Stations of the Cross.

Operation Rice Bowl reminds us of our responsibility to feed and care for the poor.

Give a St. Philip Neri Building Memorial

For a donation of \$35 or more, there is a beautiful Folder recording the gift and donor to be presented to the family.

In memory of **Don Lammers**; requested by:
The Kirkpatrick Family: Bill, Trish, Michael, Ann, Choloe and Matthew.

In memory of **Benjamin Pupek**; requested by:
Employees of Vaughan and Sautter Builders.

In memory of **Stella Roney**; requested by:
Richard and Mary Ann Patterson.

ST. PHILIP NERI CHURCH

HOAGIE SALE

CHEESE, HAM, ITALIAN or TURKEY

TUESDAY - March 1

12:00 PM - 6:00 PM

COST: \$5.00

Orders due: February 22

Call Rita: 215.679.7009 or

Pat: 215.679.5675

LENTEN FISH FRY

SPN Parish Hall

EAT-IN OR TAKE-OUT

LUNCH EVERY FRIDAY DURING LENT

February 19 - March 25

11:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Orders taken during Fry Hours: 215.679.8116

DINNERS:

February 19, 26

March 4, 11 & 18

4:30 PM - 6:30 PM

FOOD for FAMILIES



St. Philip Neri Knights of Columbus Father Letterhouse Council 6614 is running a Food Drive on the weekend of March 12/13 and we need your help to stock the shelves at the Open Link's Food Cupboard!

Join in our efforts by donating canned goods and non-perishable food items such as: boxed meals, canned vegetables, juice, soup/stew, canned meats, canned pasta, boxed pasta, canned fruits, cereal and peanut butter. We will also be accepting monetary donations that will go directly to Open Link. Together we can make sure that NO child, adult or senior in the Upper Perkiomen Valley goes hungry.

Collection sites: SPN Church after Masses; in the Parish Hall at the monthly Breakfast; or at the Catholic Family Life Center in East Greenville.

Questions, call Joe Dusko: 215.679.4881 or email to skippyfish@comcast.net.

SPN Catholic Family Life Center

215.679.2237

We want to invite everyone to the Catholic Family Life Center on Tuesday, February 16th at 7:00 pm for the program "Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy" which will be presented by Meghan Cokeley from the Archdiocese of Philadelphia. Also, there is still time to sign up for the Phantoms vs Utica Comets on Saturday, February 27th. The bus leaves from the CFLC at 5:00 pm; returning after the game. Cost is Adults \$36/Children \$33.

Registrations are being taken for the trip to the Philadelphia Flower Show for Friday, March 11. We leave the CFLC at 12 noon and will be leaving the Show at 7:00 pm. Cost is \$35.

There is still time to register for the Spring Session of Programs; and plenty of room in all of the Programs.

RESPECT LIFE MINISTRY

The Respect Life Ministry will meet on Monday, February 29th at 7:00 PM in the Rectory Meeting Room. All newcomers are welcome! If you would like to be a part of this Ministry, call Mark Nunan at: 610.754.7185.

From the desk of Sister Patricia Kelly, M.S.B.T.

There are two interesting and needed Social Services available in our area in which you may be interested. They are:

1. Through Catholic Health Care Services of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, there is the Souderton Adult Day Care Center. They care for Seniors every step of the way. The Day Care Center provides health monitoring by a Registered Nurse, nutritionally balanced meals, dignified personal assistance, and therapeutic activities. The staff provides individualized service.

Address: 228 Ridge Avenue
Souderton, PA 18964
267.219.7986

Days of Operation:
Monday thru Friday

Hours of Operation:
7:30 AM - 5:30 PM

Transportation:
Family, Transit, Para Transit

2. The other activity of interest is through Montgomery County Family Services Office. It is their Foster Grandparent Program, and it can be an Income Opportunity for Seniors. You can volunteer with children in their Schools OR with Seniors in their homes.

Volunteers serve at least 15 hours a week, receive a tax-free stipend (which does not affect any rent or health subsidies), paid vacation and holidays, and free, or reimbursed travel).

You must be a resident of Montgomery County, Pennsylvania, meet income and age requirements, and be able to speak conversational English.

For the Foster Grandparent Program:

Address: 3125 Ridge Pike
Eagleville, PA 19403

Phone: 610.630.0201

Email: treedyjones@fsmontco.org

Pilgrimage to Our Lady of Guadalupe

(sponsored by the Respect Life Ministry)

You are invited to join us on a 6 Day Pilgrimage (May 16 - 21, 2016) to Our Lady of Guadalupe Shrine in Mexico. Only 25 seats are available on a first come basis. A \$300 deposit is needed to reserve your place of this Pilgrimage.

Cost of \$1,695 includes:
Airfare from Philadelphia
5 nights of lodging at Casa Blanca Hotel
many sites will be visited on this Pilgrimage
Daily Mass at different locations
2 meals/day (breakfast & dinner)
All ground transportation, fees & gratuities

For more information there are brochures at the SCRIP table, rectory office or call Mark: 610.754.7185.

Videos about the Shrine and the Tilma:
www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ds7nD_QNeKA
www.youtube.com/watch?v=IKSwALODvT0

SPN SENIOR CLUB NEWS

Listed below are the SPN Senior Club Luncheon dates for the Calendar Year 2016. Don't forget to mark your calendar with these dates. Also, be sure to check your parish Bulletin and Parish Website for announcements of upcoming Events.

January 27

February 24

March 23

April 27

May 25

June 22

July 27

August 24

September 28

October 26

November 16

December 14

ARCHDIOCESAN NEWS

Vocation Office for Diocesan Priesthood

Jesus said, "You did not choose me: I chose you." Is Jesus calling you to be a priest? Consider the call.

www.HeedTheCall.org.

VATICAN SPLENDORS

The beauty of Vatican City is currently being hosted at the Franklin Institute with the once in a lifetime exhibit, Vatican Splendors. From the sights and sounds of the grand Basilica to a touchable cast of St. John Paul II's hand, embark on a journey through the ages of artistic expression and religious iconography. Many of the items have never been seen outside of Vatican City.

The Franklin Institute is offering tickets that are discounted; call 215.448.1200; use promo code ARCHPHL and organize your trip today!

MANUP PHILLY

Transforming Men, Transforming Families

This year, Man Up Philly will be holding the 18th Annual Men's Spirituality Conference in Philadelphia. We encourage all men to join us for an inspiring time of faith and sharing. Experience our area's largest Men's Spirituality conference first-hand and join others who are ready to Man-Up, by living their true calling.

Join us on Saturday, March 12 at St. Joseph's University - Hagan Arena in Philadelphia.

Visit ManUpPhilly.com for more information and to register.

Safe Environment Program

Protecting God's children for Adults Awareness Sessions.

Winter 2016

- 2.15.16 St. Matthew, Philadelphia at 7:00 pm
- 2.17.16 Archdiocesan Pastoral Center, Philadelphia at 6:30 pm
- 2.17.16 SS Simon and Jude, West Chester at 1:00 pm
- 2.20.16 St. Joseph, Downingtown at 9:00 am
- 2.25.16 St. Elizabeth, Uwchlan at 7:00 pm
- 2.29.16 St. Andrew, Newtown at 6:30 pm

To register: www.virtus.org or call the Office for Child and Youth Protection: 215.587.2466.

Archdiocese of Philadelphia

Office of the Archbishop

February 14, 2016

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The prophet Isaiah heard the voice of the Lord, "Whom shall I send? Who will go for us?" This is the same small voice that every man hears when God is calling him to serve in the priesthood of Jesus Christ. The inner promptings and grace of the Holy Spirit help the man to discern this voice and follow in the footsteps of Jesus Christ, the Eternal High Priest. With Christ, the priest sets out into the deep in search of humankind.

The spiritual journey of the priest leads him down many roads to various ministries in the life of God's family on earth. You have experienced this priestly ministry in your own lives in so many ways. The priest gives up his own personal life to take up the life of Christ for God's people. Now, many priests depend on you for your loving care and support. Villa Saint Joseph in Darby, Regina Coeli in Warminster, and various other health care facilities provide a home and health care for those priests who are retired or are in ill health and are no longer able to serve in active ministry. They now depend on your prayerful and financial support.

Our annual 2016 collection for the Care and Aging and Infirm Priests of the Archdiocese will be taken up on the weekend of February 20/21.

(note date change).

In the past your generosity for the care of aging and ill priests has been exemplary and we are truly grateful to you. Through your love and gratitude, God will continue to watch over them and care for them during their remaining days. You are in their daily Mass intentions and prayers, and we ask you to remember them in yours.

Gratefully and with best wishes in Christ,
Most Rev. Charles J. Chaput, O.F.M. Cap.

Mother Boniface Spirituality Center

Celtic Spirituality Retreat

March 4 - 6

Mother Boniface Spirituality Center located at 3501 Sully Avenue in Northeast Philadelphia is offering a Celtic Spirituality Retreat on the weekend of March 4-6 beginning at 7PM Friday and concluding Sunday following noon dinner. Carmel Boyle will lead us through prayer, song and reflection to encounter the spirituality of the Celts who were ever conscious of the immanence of God. This will be a symbolic pilgrimage to visit the sacred places of your own journey in the company of the Trinity, Angels and Saints Patrick and Brigid. The retreat presenter is Carmel Boyle, M. Min who comes to us from County Meath, Ireland where she is co-founder of An-Croi Retreat Center and an accomplished singer, songwriter and recording artist.

The fee for weekend at Mother Boniface is \$175 (includes a \$40 non-refundable deposit).

The fee for Saturday ONLY is \$90; (includes a \$30 non-refundable deposit)

Please call 267.350.1830 for more information or to register.

Retreats for Parents of Children -

WITH DISABILITIES

Mothers of Children with Disabilities Retreat: Tuesday, May 3 at Malvern Retreat House. Fr. Dennis O'Donnell will direct a retreat for mothers and grandmothers who are raising children with disabilities and also those who have adult children with disabilities. There will be time to pray, reflect and chat with other mothers. For more information call Malvern Retreat House at: 610.644.0400 or the Office for Persons with Disabilities at: 215.587.3530. Register by going to: www.opdarchphilly.com. Chosen Fathers: A Retreat for Fathers of Children with Disabilities: Saturday, April 30 at St. Charles Seminary, the Office for Life and Family and the Office for Persons with Disabilities will host a retreat for fathers and grandfathers of children with disabilities. The retreat will be led by Doug Keck, a Chosen Father, who is President of EWTN and an award winning TV/Radio Host.

For more information call 215.587.3530 or email mcullinan@archphila.org. Register by going to www.opdarchphilly.org.

AREA NEWS

Birthright of Pottstown is seeking: **VOLUNTEERS**

Function: Pregnancy Help Center providing support to mothers of unborn babies, including friendship, maternity clothes, referrals and essentials for baby.

Volunteers can choose to help to two and one half hours one day a week Monday thru Friday:

10:00 am to 12:30 pm or
12:30 pm to 3:00 pm

There is also a one hour shift on Tuesday evenings from 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm. There are reserved volunteer parking spaces in a lot across from the office. New volunteer training is next scheduled for the first three Mondays of February beginning at 3:00 pm at Birthright. Contact Birthright at 610.327.2626 or at birthrightpottstown@verizon.net.

Invest just five minutes a day, and your faith will deepen and grow – a day at a time.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2016

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

Love is all around

Love changes everything. Fall in love and watch the world brim with passion, color, and longing that wasn't there yesterday. Often we plod along in search of our daily bread until home and family, God and community, make our labor a noble sacrifice. Our secular celebrations of Valentine's Day and World Marriage Day converge today with another love story: that of Jesus for the great mission he was about to undertake for the sake of his Father and the creation he so loved. Make a joyful sacrifice in love today.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Deuteronomy 26:4-10; Romans 10:8-13; Luke 4:1-13 (24)*. "It is written, One does not live on bread alone."

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 15

LENTEN WEEKDAY

Follow the leader

Twentieth-century American Catholic activists Dorothy Day and Thomas Merton took center stage along with Abraham Lincoln and Martin Luther King, Jr. during Pope Francis' historic address to the U.S. Congress in September. Francis held up these four individuals as a way to highlight Catholic social teaching for all Americans. Merton was a Trappist monk, pacifist, and writer. Day was a journalist, laywoman, radical Christian, and cofounder of the Catholic Worker movement whose mission is to show hospitality to those on the margins and live out the works of mercy. Emulate these four examples of leadership.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Leviticus 19:1-2, 11-18; Matthew 25:31-46 (224)*. "Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me."

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 16

LENTEN WEEKDAY

Moved by the wisdom of God

Years before becoming pope, Pope Francis met an old woman while he was administering holy oil. He asked her if she'd like to go to confession. She said yes. He then said, "But if you haven't sinned . . .," and she replied, "We have all

sinned." With great conviction, she said that God forgives everything. "But how do you know that?" If God did not forgive everything, she replied, the world would not exist. Pope Francis recognized the wisdom of the Holy Spirit in her words and allowed his heart to be moved. May we too be so moved by the wisdom of God manifest in our daily lives.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Isaiah 55:10-11; Matthew 6:7-15 (225)*. "So shall my word be that goes forth from my mouth; It shall not return to me void, but shall do my will, achieving the end for which I sent it."

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 17

FEAST OF THE SEVEN HOLY FOUNDERS OF THE SERVITE ORDER, RELIGIOUS OR LENTEN WEEKDAY

Whatever you do

The late 13th century saw the dawn of a new kind of religious life with members living not in secluded monasteries or as hermits, but among the poor and serving them. The founders of the Servite Order were successful merchants who left their careers to form such an order under the protection of Mary the Mother of Sorrows. A characteristic of their life was to do penance. What does "penance" mean for you, especially during Lent? Giving up meat or chocolate? Or doing acts of service to the least of Christ's brothers and sisters? The answer seems clear.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Jonah 3:1-10; Luke 11:29-32 (226)*.

“Even now, says the LORD, return to me with your whole heart for I am gracious and merciful.”

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 18

LENTEN WEEKDAY

Let Esther be your guide

Without supports, you can easily become lonely and wallow in despair. In that place, you can convince yourself that nothing has or will ever go your way. Our God, though, never leaves us alone. Esther, the orphan-turned-queen of the Old Testament, is a perfect example of this. She knew what it meant to feel alone, to be threatened and outcast; yet she realized that only God could help her, and so she named what she needed. Today, pray her words: “Turn our mourning into gladness and our sorrows into wholeness.”

TODAY’S READINGS: *Esther C:12, 14-16, 23-25; Matthew 7:7-12 (227)*. “Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find.”

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 19

LENTEN WEEKDAY; DAY OF ABSTINENCE

Abstain in an age of indulgence

Advertisers tell us to “just do it” because we’re “worth it.” They tell us we are entitled, deserving, privileged – and of course in need of their product! Lent is a season for resistance – call it holy resistance if you like, or renunciation, or simply being called to dance to a different drummer. Our lives can still be joyful and full –

in fact, even more so when we let go of the myth that endless consumption will bring us joy. It doesn’t work that way. Instead, let’s put our hands together and give it up for Lent!

TODAY’S READINGS: *Ezekiel 18:21-28; Matthew 5:20-26 (228)*. “Go first and be reconciled with your brother, and then come and offer your gift.”

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 20

LENTEN WEEKDAY

Free to forgive

Jean Vanier, founder of L’Arche, a network of homes for people with developmental disabilities, writes that forgiveness is grounded in loving your enemies. Learning to love those who have hurt you is a long and sometimes painful process. It requires that you not only consider yourself, but also those with whom you’re in relationship. Coming to the point of forgiveness, Vanier writes, “is the process of getting out of the prison of our likes and dislikes, our hatreds and fears, and walking to freedom and compassion.” It means loving like God does – and finding peace in the process.

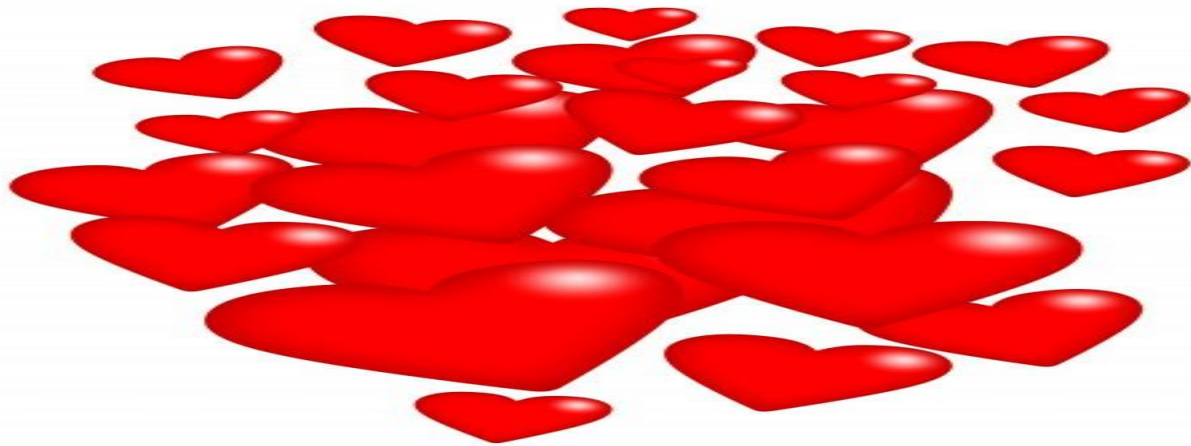
TODAY’S READINGS: *Deuteronomy 26:16-19; Matthew 5:43-48 (229)*. “But I say to you, love your enemies, and pray for those who persecute you.”

SAVE THE DATE

SPN Senior Club Luncheon

FEBRUARY 24, 2016

11:30 am in the Parish Hall



Come and enjoy a great catered lunch
&

There will be plenty of sweets for the sweet!

To make your reservation, please call

Rita Latshaw at 215-679-7009

**The reservation deadline is February 19,
2016**

Cost for lunch is \$3.00 per person