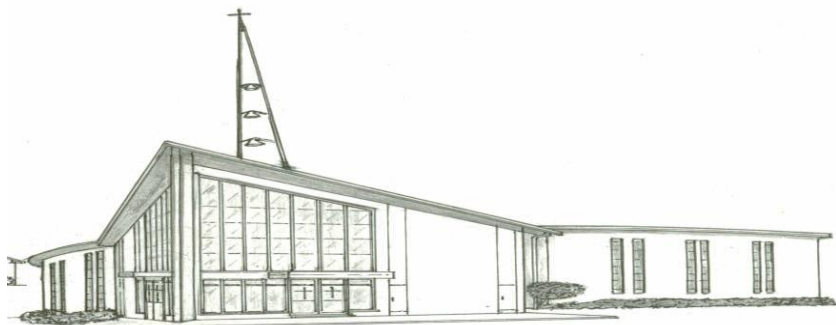


Church of Saint Philip Neri

Pennsburg, PA 18073

Feb. 21, 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 - Linda Benko
John Burke
Priest
Deacon
Linda Franks
Claire Holcombe
Catherine Cahill
Lee Johnson
Robert Ellis
Dawn Ellis
Courtney Highleyman
Locke Highleyman

7:30 am - Jim Michels
Chuck Rodgers
Priest
Deacon
Maureen Moser
Paul Moser

9:30 am - Bill Gurgick
Lisa Gurgick
Priest
Deacon
Joshua Hewitt
Lillian Hewitt

11:00 am - Bob Hermley
Jeanne Hermley
Priest
Deacon
Barbara Schwind
Bob Schwind

Second Sunday of Lent

February 21, 2016

Monday, February 22, The Chair of Saint Peter the Apostle

6:30 am - Lenten Communion Service
5:00 pm - 11th Anniversary, Stanley Grochowski (Richard & Barbara Grochowski)

Tuesday, February 23, Saint Polycarp
6:30 am - Lenten Communion Service
8:00 am - For all those enrolled in the Memorial Society

Wednesday, February 24
6:30 am - Lenten Communion Service
8:00 am - Fifteenth Anniversary, Ernest Greiss (Nancy Greiss-Brogan & family)

Feb. 28
Lectors

Terry Benner
Wendy Benner

Beverly Bowser
C. Bowser

Edmond Tryon
Alicia Tryon

Barbara Lear

Thursday, February 25
6:30 am - Lenten Communion Service
8:00 am - Catherine Fliegel, (Jim & Annemarie Quigley)
7:00 pm - Stations of the Cross

Friday, February 26
6:30 am - Mass in Chapel,
8:00 am - Thomas Osieski, (Mary Fisher)

Saturday, February 27
9:00 am - Stella Roney, (Pete & Peg Duklis)
5:00 pm - A Special Intention for Dawn Ellis (Peggy Bambrick)

Third Sunday of Lent
February 28, 2016

7:30 am - Paul & Vera Fronheiser, (Estate)
9:30 am - Seventeenth Anniversary, Albert McArdle (Edward & Joan Lampart)
11:00 am - For the living and deceased members of the Parish.

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 **Robert Gerhart, Joseph Iski, John Metzinger & Thaddeus Rutkowski.**
For those who have died, and in particular for **Barbara Gaugler & Margaret Tocci**, grant them eternal rest and peace.

FEBRUARY 2016: This week at a glance

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

Monday - February 22

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

Tuesday - February 23

Boy Scouts	7:00 pm Parish Hall
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Wednesday - February 24

PREP/Religious Education	6:30 pm SPN CFLC & Mandatory Confirmation Parent Meeting at Neri Center
SPN Senior Club Gathering	11:30 am Parish Hall

Thursday - February 25

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

Friday – February 26

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 27

PREP/Religious Education Confirmation Retreat:
9:00 am - 12:00 PM in the Neri Center

Sunday - February 28

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

Upcoming Meetings

Holy Rosary Hour - Monday, February 29 - 1:00 pm - Chapel
SPN Quilting - Monday, February 29 - 1:30 pm - Parish Hall
Boy Scouts - Tuesday, March 1 - 7:00 pm - Parish Hall
PREP/Religious Education - Wednesday, March 2 - Catholic Family Life Center; Mandatory First Holy Communion Parent Meeting - 6:30 pm - Neri Ctr.
Bible Study - Thursday, March 3 - 7:00 pm - Neri Center
NO Men's Basketball - Thursday, March 3
RCIA - Thursday, March 3 - 7:00 pm - Rectory Meeting Room
Stations of the Cross - Thursday, March 3 - 7:00 pm in Church
Bible Study - Friday, March 4 - 10:00 am - Neri Center
Lenten Fish Fry (Lunch) - Friday, March 4 - 11:00 am - 2:00 pm - Parish Hall
Lenten Fish Fry (Dinner) - Friday, March 4 - 4:30 pm - 6:30 pm - Parish Hall
Frontier Girls - Friday, March 4 - 6:30 pm - Parish Hall
Charismatic Prayer Group - Saturday, March 5 - 10:00 am - Chapel
Bingo - Sunday, March 6 - 1:00 pm - Parish Hall
Children's Liturgy of the Word - Sunday, March 6 - at 9:30 am Mass
Little Church - Sunday, March 6 - 9:30 am - Parish Hall Meeting Rooms
Men's Basketball - Sunday, March 6 - 8:00 pm - 10:00 pm - Parish Hall
Youth Ministry - Sunday, March 6 - 5:30 pm - 7:30 pm - Parish Hall

Contribution Statements

Just a reminder for those who need their 2015 contribution statement call or email the rectory office. They are mailed upon request only.

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 Klaunder stickman@enter.net
Marlene Leidy marleneleidy@comcast.net
Ed Tryon greeneng2001@yahoo.com
Theresa Walker cheg1978@comcast.net

SUNDAY COLLECTIONS

February 15, 2015	February 14, 2016
Envelopes: \$ 4,483.00	\$ 4,549.00
Online: 1,700.00	1,696.00
Loose: 709.00	1,471.00
Children: 30.00	46.00
Total: \$6,922.00	\$ 7,762.00
Ash Wednesday:	\$ 2,255.00

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.

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 **Karl Heebner**; requested by:
Connie Marks.

In memory of **Donald Lammers**; requested by:
Rich and Ruth Rodeghiero.

In memory of **Tom Osieski**; requested by:
Andrew and Mary Souder.

In memory of **Margaret Reichart**; requested
by: Peter and Linda Frank.

We also have "Living Memorials" for those
special occasions in life.

PARISH BREAKFAST

Our parish Breakfast was held on Sunday,
February 14 with 355 people attending.

There were three winners for a FREE breakfast;
they are:
John Bowers, Deb Nunan & Dennis McKinlay

The next breakfast is Sunday, March 13 from
7:00 am - 12:30 pm; save the date! Also . . .
donations of baked goods are needed for our
monthly bake sales held at the breakfast. Will
you help? If so, call Rita Latshaw at
215.679.7009.

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

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

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

February 11th; 18th; 25th;

March 3rd; 10th; & 17th

FIRST FRIDAY

Friday, March 4th is First Friday. Mass is in
Church at 9:00 AM.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament in Chapel
from 10:00 AM until 3:00 PM followed by
Benediction.

Please commit to spend some time with Our
Lord in the Blessed Sacrament.

SPN Catholic Family Life Center

215.679.2237

There are still seats available for the Phantom's
game on Saturday, February 27. We will leave
the CFLC at 12:00 noon; returning immediately
following the game.

Philadelphia Flower Show: Please call us if you
are interested in attending the Philadelphia
Flower Show. We will leave the CFLC at 12:00
noon; returning to the Center at 7:00 PM. Cost
is \$35/person.

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

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.

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 Mark Nunan at: 610.754.7185 or email: marknunan@dejazzd.com.
(please note new contact name)

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

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

SPN SENIOR CLUB NEWS

Just a reminder . . .

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.



40 Days for Life is a continuous period of prayer, fasting and peaceful prayer vigils outside an abortion clinic in an effort to protect the lives of unborn children and extend a hand of mercy to the men and women harmed by abortion. During the Jubilee Year of Mercy, all of us are looking for ways to respond to the Holy Father's invitation to live the spiritual and corporal works of mercy with renewed zeal. One great opportunity to do this is to participate in the 40 Days for Life campaign which runs through March 20th at the Planned Parenthood Facility in Norristown. We invite you to stand and peacefully pray for 1 hour on Corpus Christi's scheduled day - Tuesday March 15th, from 8:00AM to 8:00pm. We are hoping to have at least 2 people per hour praying and carpooling is encouraged! Call Mark Nunan at 610-754-7185 or marknunan@dejazzd.com for more info. Thank you for helping to build a culture of life!

ARCHDIOCESAN NEWS

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!

Vocation Office for Diocesan Priesthood

Priesthood: A Call from God; a gift for others. Consider the Priesthood.
www.HeedTheCall.org.

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

2.25.16 St. Elizabeth, Uwchlan at 7:00 pm

2.29.16 St. Andrew, Newtown at 6:30 pm

Spring 2016

3.09.16 Archdiocesan Pastoral Center at 6:30 pm

3.14.16 St. Matthew, Philadelphia at 7:00 pm

3.19.16 St. Helena, Philadelphia at 6:30 pm

3.29.16 Our Lady of Mt. Carmel (Doylestown) 6:30 pm

4.13.16 Archdiocesan Pastoral Center at 6:30 pm

4.19.16 St. Matthew, Philadelphia at 7:00 pm

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

Retreats for Parents of Children -

WITH DISABILITIES

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.

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.

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.

Malvern Retreat House

Crucifixion and Death of Christ

Malvern Retreat House is hosting a special evening of reflection on Tuesday, February 23 titled *Crucifixion & Death of Christ*. The 5:30pm-9pm retreat will be directed by Rev. Monsignor Joseph T. Marino, Rector of Malvern Retreat House. During the retreat, Monsignor will show a short portion of Mel Gibson's film *The Passion of Christ* to help investigate what is really revealed by the Gospels. For more information or to register, please visit malvernretreat.com or call 610-644-0400.

**Day of Reflection for:
Recent Widows & Widowers**

On Wednesday, March 9 Malvern Retreat House will hold a day retreat for men and women who have recently lost their spouses. The 9am to 3pm retreat will help provide hope and healing and includes prayer time, inspiring talks, Mass, and private Adoration. The retreat will be led by Deacon David Schaffer, who in 2012 lost his wife of 46 years who died suddenly, followed by his son 6 months later. Deacon David has a degree in Pastoral Counseling. For more information or to register, visit malvernretreat.com or call 610-644-0400.

About Malvern Retreat House

Owned and operated by Catholic lay leadership since 1912, Malvern is the oldest and largest Catholic retreat house in the country - hosting 20,000 people annually at 250 retreats on 125 acres in beautiful Chester County, Pennsylvania. We invite you to come to Malvern to reflect, refresh and rejoice in your faith. To find an evening, weekday or weekend spiritual retreat that's right for you, call 610-644-0400 or visit us online at MalvernRetreat.com.

Saint Aloysius Cemetery Information

All cemetery decorations flowers, etc. must be removed from Saint Aloysius Cemeteries by Sunday, February 28. Beginning on Monday, February 29th, the maintenance Staff will clear and dispose of all remaining decorations in preparation for Easter. Thank you for your continued cooperation.

Anyone interested in learning more about the Saint Aloysius Cemeteries is encouraged to contact Deacon George Harmansky at 610-326-5877.

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

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2016

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

Take and drink

The word *covenant* is used often in scripture and the liturgy. It's a bond, in some ways like a

contract, but far more serious. The flame and smoke in the Genesis story were signs that God approved of the arrangement, but the remains of slaughtered animals were a grim reminder: May this be the fate of the one who breaks this bond. At every Mass, we remember Christ's words about the "new and everlasting covenant" as he bids us share his cup, his blood. When we do, our bond with God is sealed by far more than the blood of beasts. Consider the language you use today, the choices you make. Do they show that you are everlastingly sealed to Christ?

TODAY'S READINGS: *Genesis 15:5-12, 17-18; Philippians 3:17-4:1; Luke 9:28b-36 (27).*
"On that occasion the Lord made a covenant."

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 22

FEAST OF THE CHAIR OF PETER THE APOSTLE

Approach God's throne of grace

The Latin for "chair" is *cathedra*, and it is the place from which someone in authority presides and teaches. When the Holy Father teaches *ex cathedra*, "from the chair," his teaching has the assurance of God's infallibility. Your diocesan cathedral has a bishop's chair. In biblical language, it is better called God's "Mercy Seat," the "Throne of Grace." Christ placed his trust and authority in Peter and his successors, and today we remember not only to *seek* God's mercy, but also to lead others to it. Anyone need your forgiveness? Do you need to forgive yourself? No better day than today.

TODAY'S READINGS: *1 Peter 5:1-4; Matthew 16:13-19 (535).* "I will give you the keys to the kingdom of heaven."

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 23

FEAST OF POLYCARP, BISHOP

From age to age and from east to west

His name might sound odd to our modern ears, but Polycarp is a pretty popular guy, especially for someone who died back in the *really* olden times—like the year 167! The wisdom of his writings is embraced by churches of all stripes—from Roman Catholic to Eastern Orthodox, from mainline Protestant to every other type of Christian. Some researchers even think Polycarp was the one who first compiled, edited, and published the collection we now revere as the New Testament. Maybe that's why he was named Polycarp, which means "rich in fruit." Here was one fruitful author you want to remember! Thank all who came before you and left you this great legacy of faith.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Isaiah 1:10, 16-20; Matthew 23:1-12 (231).* "Whoever exalts himself will be humbled; but whoever humbles himself will be exalted."

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 24

LENTEN WEEKDAY

Threatened with Resurrection

During the decades of political violence in her land, Guatemalan poet Julia Esquivel penned the poem, "Threatened with Resurrection." Her words cut to the heart of the Lenten journey and Christian life: "There is something here within us / Which doesn't let us sleep, which doesn't let us rest, / Which doesn't stop pounding deep inside . . . in this marathon of Hope, / there are always others to relieve us / in bearing the courage necessary / to arrive at the goal which lies beyond death." The goal of our journey is Resurrection; to attain it we must face death and trust that all we give now will lead us to new life.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Jeremiah 18:18-20; Matthew 20:17-28 (232)*. "The Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve."

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 25

LENTEN WEEKDAY

To keep a true Lent

The 17th-century poet and clergyman Robert Herrick asked himself the same questions we do today during Lent. Why are we fasting? Is it "to keep the larder lean"? Is it to fast from meat, but "fill the platter high with fish"? Is it to fast long and look sour? No, says Herrick, "It is to fast from strife, from old debate, and hate." It is to "starve thy sin, not bin." And that is how to keep "thy Lent."

TODAY'S READINGS: *Jeremiah 17:5-10; Luke 16:19-31 (233)*. "For the Lord watches over the way of the just, but the way of the wicked vanishes."

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 26

LENTEN WEEKDAY; DAY OF ABSTINENCE

Feed my soul

The Fridays in Lent are days of fasting and abstinence, when Catholics are asked to abstain from eating meat and snacking between meals and to keep nutrition basic. Why do this? You can fast and abstain to purify your mind and body, to offer sacrifice for the needs of the world, to acknowledge your need to make amends for failures. And in doing so, you can become mindful of the poor and hungry of the world who struggle to have enough to eat every day. As Doctor of the church Saint John Chrysostom put it centuries ago: "Dost thou fast?" Then give us proof of it by your works: "If thou sees a poor man, take pity on him!" As you fast today, reach out to those with less, and pray for the grace to made amends with someone you have hurt or excluded.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Genesis 37:3-4, 12-13a, 17b-28a; Matthew 21:33-43, 45-46 (234)*. "When the brothers saw that their father loved him best . . . they hated him . . . and they would not greet him."

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 27








LENTEN WEEKDAY

Step-by-step penance

It's one thing to feel sorry for a wrong you've committed, but another to fully repent. Saint John Chrysostom offers guidance on how to do that in his Five Paths of Repentance: condemnation of your sins, forgiveness of your neighbor's sins against you, prayer "that is fervent and careful and comes from the heart," almsgiving "whose power is great and far-reaching," and humility. He said, "We have learned how to heal those wounds of ours, let us apply the cures. Then ... we can approach the Holy Table with confidence, go gloriously to meet Christ."

TODAY'S READINGS: *Micah 7:14-15, 18-20; Luke 15:1-3, 11-32 (235)*. "Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you; I no longer deserve to be called your son."

FEBRUARY 2016

SABBATH SUNDAY	MAKE A DIFFERENCE MONDAY	TRANSFORMING TUESDAY	WISDOM WEDNESDAY	THIRSTING THURSDAY	FASTING FRIDAY	SELFLESS SATURDAY
<p>7 Superbowl Sunday</p> <p>Invite someone to your Superbowl party or host one as a church.</p>	<p>1 This week, pray for men and women religious.</p>	<p>2 Jubilee for Consecrated Life</p> <p>Commit yourself to learn about the Catholic faith and share your understanding with others.</p>	<p>3 "Jesus, help me to simplify my life by learning what you want me to be - and becoming that person." - St. Therese of Lisieux</p>	<p>4 Join a ministry at your parish. Ask your pastor or parish office for suggestions.</p>	<p>5 Fast from spreading gossip today.</p>	<p>6 Make an effort to attend confession today.</p>
<p>14 Valentine's Day</p>	<p>8 This week, pray for someone who needs forgiveness.</p>	<p>9 Sign up for 40acts</p> 	<p>10 ASH WEDNESDAY</p> <p>"Remember, you are dust, and to dust you shall return." - The Roman Missal Lent Begins </p>	<p>11 Make a Lenten commitment if you haven't already done so.</p>	<p>12 Read about the life of a Saint today.</p> 	<p>13 Invite someone to celebrate the Lord's Day with you today.</p>
<p>21</p>	<p>15 President's Day</p> <p>This week, pray for our president and all world leaders.</p>	<p>16 Donate baby formula to a local pregnancy clinic.</p>	<p>17 The Lord delights in YOU! (Isaiah 62:4)</p>	<p>18 Make time to sit with Jesus today in church, adoration or in a quiet room.</p>	<p>19 Invite and pay for a struggling person's fish dinner. Sit and talk with them.</p> 	<p>20 Offer to babysit someone's kids for free tonight.</p>
<p>28</p>	<p>22 Jubilee for Roman Curia</p> <p>This week, pray for the addicted.</p>	<p>23 Cook and deliver a meal to someone who is sick or home bound. Ask your parish office for names.</p>	<p>24 "Do you not know that fasting can master concupiscence, lift up the soul, confirm it in the paths of virtue, and prepare a fine reward for the Christian?" - St. Hedwig of Silesia</p>	<p>25 "Less of me, and more of Thee." Notice how often you use the word "I."</p>	<p>26 Fast from drinking coffee today.</p> 	<p>27</p>
<p>29 This week, pray for someone who needs forgiveness.</p>	<p>28</p>		<p>"It is not easy to entrust oneself to God's mercy, because it is an abyss beyond our comprehension. But we must! ... 'Oh, I am a great sinner!' 'All the better! Go to Jesus. He likes you to tell him these things!' He forgets, he has a very special capacity for forgetting. He forgets, he kisses you, he embraces you and he simply says to you: 'Neither do I condemn you; go, and sin no more.'" (Jn 8:11).</p> <p>~ POPE FRANCIS, PAUL HOMILY ON MARCH 17, 2013</p>	<p>Want to learn more about Lent? Scan the code!</p> 	<p>aragraphs 382-1419, 759-2771</p>	<p>aragraphs 772-2793</p>
<p>aragraphs 339-1381</p>	<p>aragraphs 816-2837</p>	<p>aragraphs 794-2815</p>	<p>aragraphs 816-2837</p>			