

**Church of Saint Philip Neri
Pennsburg, PA 18073
Feb. 28, 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 - Marci Jaman
Sr. Patricia Kelly
Priest
Deacon
Diane Kennedy
Patrick Kennedy

7:30 am - Beverly Bowser
Cameron Bowser
Priest
Deacon
Lori Brozena
Trish Dornisch
Jo Ellen Carr
Ray Carr
Mary R. Giambrone
Barbara Jaruszewski
Jim Michels
Chuck Rodgers

9:30 am - Keith Greczek
Stephanie Greczek
Priest
Deacon
Jenny Josko
Christine Kemp

11:00 am - Sharon Shaak
Theresa Walker
Priest
Deacon
Lisa Edleman
Michael Edleman

Third Sunday of Lent

February 28, 2016

Monday, February 29
6:30 am - Lenten Communion Service
5:00 pm - Stella Roney,
(Stanley Mikanowicz)

Tuesday, March 1
6:30 am - Lenten Communion Service
8:00 am - Second Anniversary, Mildred Moyer
(Don & Gail)

Wednesday, March 2
6:30 am - Lenten Communion Service
8:00 am - Jason Shellaway,
(Charles & Eileen McMillen)

March 6 Lectors

C. Highleyman
Janine Warnas

John Gilmore
T. Gilmore

Mary C. Weber
Sue DiMarco

M. Gehringer

Thursday, March 3, Saint Katharine Drexel
6:30 am - Lenten Communion Service
8:00 am - Karl Heebner,
(SPN Daily Mass Attendees)
7:00 pm - Stations of the Cross

First Friday, March 4, Saint Casimir
6:30 am - Mass in Chapel
9:00 am - Laura Lear-Harrison,
(Joe & Barbara Henry)

Saturday, March 5
9:00 am - Lester Kemp,
(Joe & Mary Verna and family)
5:00 pm - For the living and deceased members
of the Parish.

Third Sunday of Lent **March 6, 2016**

7:30 am - Stella Roney, (Bob & Barbara Schwind)
9:30 am - Betty Mikanowicz,
(Andrew & Mary Souder)
11:00 am - Maria Fernandez & Martha Austrich,
(Gloria Martell)

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.

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, Bob Kanya, John Metzinger, Christina Troll & Ryleigh Troll.**

For those who have died, and in particular for **Brian Mokriski**, grant them eternal rest and peace.

FEBRUARY 2016: This week at a glance

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

Monday - February 29

Holy Rosary Mass	1:00 pm Chapel
Respect Life Ministry Meeting	7:00 pm Rectory
SPN Quilting	1:30 pm Parish Hall

Tuesday – March 1	
Boy Scouts	7:00 pm Parish Hall

Wednesday – March 2	
PREP/Religious Education	6:30 pm SPN CFLC & Mandatory Confirmation Parent Meeting at Neri Center

Thursday - March 3	
Bible Study	7:00 pm Neri Center
Stations of the Cross	7:00 pm Church

Friday – March 4	
Bible Study	10:00 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 - March 5	
Charismatic Prayer Group	10:00 am Chapel

Sunday - March 6	
Bingo	1:00 pm Parish Hall
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, March 7 - Holy Rosary Hour - 1:00 pm - Chapel
 SPN Quilting - Monday, March 7 - 1:30 pm - Parish Hall
 Boy Scouts - Tuesday, March 8 - 7:00 pm - Parish Hall
 PREP/Religious Education - Wednesday, March 9 - 6:30 pm - Catholic Family Life Center; PREP Confessions grades 3-6 at 6:30 pm
 Bible Study - Thursday, March 10 - 7pm - Neri Center
 NO Men's Basketball - Thursday, March 10
 Pennsburg Manor Nursing Home Mass - Thursday, March 10 at 2:15 pm
 RCIA - Thursday, March 10 - 7:00 pm - Rectory
 Stations of the Cross - Thursday, March 10 - 7:00 pm in Church
 Bible Study - Friday, March 11- 9 am - Neri Center
 Lenten Fish Fry (Lunch) - Friday, March 11 - 11:00 am - 2:00 pm -Parish Hall
 Lenten Fish Fry (Dinner) - Friday, March 11 - 4:30 pm - 6:30 pm - Parish Hall
 Frontier Girls - Friday, March 11 - 6:30 pm - Parish Hall
 Breakfast setup - Saturday, March 12 - 7:00 am - Parish Hall
 Parish Breakfast - Sunday, March 13 - 7:00 am - 12:30 pm in Parish Hall
 Children's Liturgy of the Word - Sunday, March 13 - at 9:30 am Mass
 Little Church - Sunday, March 13 - 9:30 am - Parish Hall Meeting Rooms
 Men's Basketball - Sunday, March 6 - 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 Klaunder	stickman@enter.net
Marlene Leidy	marleneleidy@comcast.net
Ed Tryon	greeneng2001@yahoo.com
Theresa Walker	cheg1978@comcast.net

SUNDAY COLLECTIONS

February 22, 2015	February 21, 2016
Envelopes: \$ 4,483.00	\$ 5,686.00
Online: 1,700.00	2,421.00
Loose: 709.00	565.00
Children: 30.00	45.00
Total: \$ 6,922.00	\$ 8,717.00
Parish Debt:	\$ 3,836.00

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:

March 2016

For those who do not receive Sunday collection envelopes or if you are an On-Line giver, the following second collections are:
Church in Africa; Easter flowers; 100th Anniversary; Rice Bowl offering; Palm Sunday; Holy Land/Good Friday; and Easter.

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 **Phyllis Cunningham**; requested by Francis & Theresa Stranick.

In memory of **Donald Lammers**; requested by: Francis & Delia Grim.

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

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.

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**

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

Contribution Statements

Just a reminder for those who need their 2015 contribution statement call or email the rectory office at 215.679.9275 (10:00 am - 4:30 pm) or email to: smisiak@spnparish.org.

They are mailed upon request only.

ST. PHILIP NERI PARISH BREAKFAST

All-You-Can-Eat Buffet

Sunday, March 13th; 7AM - 12:30 PM

Scrambled eggs . bacon . scrapple

Chipped beef . Home fried potatoes

French toast . cereal . toast

Milk . coffee . hot tea . 2 juices

Omelette Station: prepared to order - always with a minimum of 4 different ingredients.

Make your own Waffles:

Fix'n Bar: yogurt, granola, fresh fruit

Homemade baked goods for sale!

For every 100 sold breakfasts, one FREE will be given away!

Seniors (60 & up): \$9.00

Adults (11-60) 8.00

Ages 4 - 11: 5.00

4 & under: 1.00

checks and major credit cards are accepted.

donations of baked goods are much appreciated; if you can help out, call Rita: 215.679.7009

COME-N-GO BINGO

St. Philip Neri Parish Hall

FREE Admission

Saturday - March 19, 2016

Doors open at 6:00 pm

Games begin at 6:30 pm

Cost: \$.25/game

50/50 cash pots and

special bonus & gift prize pots.

Menu: hot/cold foods & drinks

If you bring a non-perishable item to benefit Open Link, you play two free games of Bingo!

Sponsored by:

Knights of Columbus 6614

More info call: 215.679.6405

EASTER EGG HUNT

Ages 1 to 11 years

at: St. Philip Neri Parish Church grounds

Saturday – March 19

10:00 AM SHARP!

RAIN or SHINE!

sponsored by: Knights of Columbus

A reminder to all parents: You are responsible to bring and pick up your children.

SPN Catholic Family Life Center

There are still tickets available for the Philadelphia Flower Show on Friday, March 11. We will be leaving from the CFLC at Noon and will leave from the Flower Show between 5 & 5:30 p.m. Cost is \$35.00, includes tickets to the show and transportation.

The next trip will be to the Nation Shrine of St. Elizabeth Ann Seaton, Saturday, April 30. We will leave from the CFLC at 6:30 a.m. to arrive at the National Shrine by 10:00 a.m. Transportation will be by Hagey Bus and there will be a restroom onboard. After the tour at the Shrine, we will be stopping in nearby Gettysburg at General Pickett's Buffet for dinner.

Cost is \$58.00 Adults/\$55.00 Children (12 & Under) includes tickets for St. Elizabeth, Transportation and Dinner.

Make checks payable to Catholic Family Life Center. You may mail them to 26 East 6th Street, East Greenville, PA 18041 or put your check in a plain envelope marked with CFLC and drop it in the collection basket on Sunday. You may also register on line at www.catholicfamilylifecenter.com

There is still room for children to enter our dance and tumbling programs.

Please call the Center 215-679-2237 to make the arrangements.

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.

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



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 St. Philip Neri'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! Signup sheet and directions are in the Narthex.

Vocation Office for Diocesan Priesthood
 Help wanted: Courageous, committed men to do the work of the Lord.
 Consider the Priesthood.
www.HeedTheCall.org.

Safe Environment Program
 Protecting God's children for Adults Awareness Sessions.

Winter 2016
 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.

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!

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.

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.

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.

AREA PARISH NEWS

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.

AREA PARISH NEWS

Blessed Teresa of Calcutta Church

CYO 2016 Dances:

256 Swamp Pike; Schwenksville 19473

The CYO of BTC will be sponsoring two dances this school year on the following dates:

March 5, 2016 &

May 7, 2016

ALL Sixth, Seventh & Eighth grade students in the parish are invited. The dances are from 7:00 PM to 10:00 PM; tickets must be purchased online by going to CYO Dance Registration on the BTC website. The cost for each ticket is \$7.00

Questions? Call Lynn Earl: 610.283.5494 or lynnearl@comcast.net.

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

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2016

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT; FIRST SCRUTINY OF THE ELECT

Scrutinize your intentions

Those wishing to join the Catholic Church go through a process that involves a great deal of

reflection and self-examination. The rest of us get to join in on the middle Sundays of Lent when the “scrutinies” are observed. These ancient rites are meant to help heal what is broken and strengthen what is upright. We can all join in, and if you don’t happen to be present at a Mass where scrutinies are observed, you can still take some quiet time today to reflect on aspects of your life that need some renewing. Lent is the season for renewal, so you are in the right time and place!

TODAY’S READINGS: *Year A: Exodus 17:3-7; Romans 5:1-2, 5-8; John 4:5-42 (28).*

“The hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem.”

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 29

LENTEN WEEKDAY

Your faithful companion

God is with you (remember, Jesus said he is with you—and all of us—always). Sometimes you might forget that. But God’s presence is evident if you pay attention to the expected and unexpected details of your life. Perhaps you’re struggling with the appropriate response to a conflict and the answer comes from your best friend—expected, but surely a sign of the Spirit’s movement in your life. Perhaps you’re experiencing the pain of loss and you somehow manage to get up and keep going—unexpected, but a welcome sign of God’s grace. Think back over the past few days and consider the certain and surprising ways God has been at your side.

TODAY’S READINGS: *2 Kings 5:1-15ab; Luke 4:24-30 (237).* “*If only my master would present himself.*”

TUESDAY, MARCH 1

LENTEN WEEKDAY

Stand tall in the midst of hardship

Nobody ever wants to suffer or experience hardship. Tough times can’t always be avoided, but we can choose how we react to them. We can turn to God and open ourselves to finding a way (however small or seemingly inadequate) to persevere. Sometimes it might be a friend or inspirational quote, a fond memory or sheer determination that carries us through. For Saint Teresa of Avila, for example, having courage meant a lot. “To have courage for whatever comes in life—everything lies in that.” How does God help you face hardships? What scripture verses, saints, virtues, or life-giving techniques do you draw upon for strength?

TODAY’S READINGS: *Daniel 3:25, 34-43; Matthew 18:21-35 (238).* “*Azariah stood up in the fire and prayed aloud.*”

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 2

LENTEN WEEKDAY

Learn from the students

Right now, parishes are preparing to welcome new Catholics on Holy Saturday during the Easter Vigil, when adults are baptized into the church. Lent is the final stage of preparation for these candidates, and you are called upon to pray for them as they get ready to become full members and to welcome them into the community. Take time to reflect, too, on what the sacraments they are about to receive—Baptism, Confirmation, Holy Eucharist—mean to you. And recommit yourself to the path they are on—one of spiritual discovery and formation.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Deuteronomy 4:1, 5-9; Matthew 5:17-19 (239)*. "... teach them to your children and to your children's children."

THURSDAY, MARCH 3

FEAST OF KATHARINE DREXEL, VIRGIN, RELIGIOUS FOUNDER

Can money be sacred?

We call money "filthy lucre." The love of it is the root of all evil, Paul tells us. Yet an American heiress and her sisters found a way to make their wealth a holy thing. The Drexels—Katharine, Elizabeth, and Louise—lost their mother early, and beloved stepmother and father while the sisters were in their 20s. With the Drexel fortune at their disposal, they vowed to provide sound educations and job training to forgotten communities in this country: post-Civil War black and Native Americans. Redeem some wealth to holy purposes.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Jeremiah 7:23-28; Luke 11:14-23 (240)*. "Walk in all the ways that I command you, so that you may prosper."

FRIDAY, MARCH 4

FEAST OF CASIMIR

Gotta hand it to generous Casimir

Traditions sometimes spring from quirky sources. Casimir was renowned for his generosity toward the sick and poor, and it was probably in attending the ill during an outbreak that he died at the tender age of 25. An early painting of the saint depicted him with two right hands, and legend sprung up that the artist tried to redraw the hand in a different place but was unable to paint over the old hand. Well,

perhaps the painter intentionally wanted to leave Casimir with two right hands to emphasize his generosity. We'll never know, and it doesn't really matter. Let the extra hand inspire you to follow Casimir's example and be a handy giver!

TODAY'S READINGS: *Hosea 14:2-10; Mark 12:28-34 (241)*. "You shall love your neighbor as yourself."

SATURDAY, MARCH 5





LENTEN WEEKDAY

Pray. Always.

The humble prayer of the tax collector—"O God, be merciful to me a sinner"—in its utter simplicity is the basis of what is called "The Jesus Prayer": "Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner," a favorite in the spirituality of the Eastern Churches. This prayer, or words like it, is a way to "Pray always," as Saint Paul says, since it repeats itself within, even when you don't think you're praying. What would be your own slowing-down word or phrase? Let God whisper such words to your heart. Listen. Pray.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Hosea 6:1-6; Luke 18:9-14 (242)*. "He beat his breast and prayed, 'O God, be merciful to me a sinner.'"

FEBRUARY 2016

SABBATH SUNDAY	MAKE A DIFFERENCE MONDAY	TRANSFORMING TUESDAY	WISDOM WEDNESDAY	THIRSTING THURSDAY	FASTING FRIDAY	SELFLESS SATURDAY
<p>TECHISM READING FOR THE WEEK</p> <p>aragraphs 339-1381</p>	<p>1 This week, pray for men and women religious.</p>	<p>2 Jubilee for Consecrated Life 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. Therèse 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>7 Superbowl Sunday Invite someone to your Superbowl party or host one as a church.</p> <p>aragraphs 382-1419, 759-2771</p>	<p>8 This week, pray for someone who needs forgiveness.</p>	<p>9 Sign up for 40acts </p>	<p>10 ASH WEDNESDAY "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>14 Valentine's Day</p> <p>aragraphs 772-2793</p>	<p>15 President's Day 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>21</p> <p>aragraphs 794-2815</p>	<p>22 Jubilee for Roman Curia 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>28</p> <p>aragraphs 816-2837</p>	<p>29 This week, pray for someone who needs forgiveness.</p>	<p></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></p>	<p>Find out more about the Jubilee Year of Mercy at www.livemercy.org</p>	