

**Church of Saint Philip Neri  
Pennsburg, PA 18073  
March 6, 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:**

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

**Fax Numbers:**

<b>Rectory</b>	215.679.0386
<b>Religious Education/PREP</b>	215.679.8370
<b>Catholic Family Life Center</b>	215.679.8370

**Church & Rectory Address:**

1325 Kliner Rd; Pennsburg 18073

**Hours:** 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM  
**Email Address:** [smisiak@spnparish.org](mailto:smisiak@spnparish.org)  
**Website Address:** [www.spnparish.org](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:tdewees@spncflc.org)  
**Website Address:** [www.catholicfamilylifecenter.com](http://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](mailto:spnym@comcast.net)

**ROSARY: Prayed in the Chapel**

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

**EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION**

1<sup>st</sup> 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  
2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday Baptisms are held **at** the 11 AM Mass  
3<sup>rd</sup> 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**

1<sup>st</sup> 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.

### **Concerning Mass Times here at St. Philip Neri**

We've heard the saying "The times they are a changing". When I was ordained 34 years ago, very little changed concerning Mass times and parish Events. Many ask why schedules change, programs are started and then adapted. Sometimes, it gets so confusing. In the old days (the days of my youth and young adult years) everything seemed to stay for the most part constant. Not so anymore. Mass times were always the same from time eternity. The day-to-day operations here must always be observed and evaluated from year to year. Over the past few years, we have been observing the attendance at Sunday Masses especially during the summer. We have noticed the 11:00 am Sunday Mass has drastically dropped in attendance. Usually in the Fall, numbers increase, but over the last two (2) years, the increase has not been dramatic. After speaking with the Liturgy Committee and Pastoral Council, the following recommendation has been agreed upon. We propose that beginning Sunday, June 5th of this year, we would try implementing a summer Mass Schedule. The same amount of Sunday Masses only a time change for one. The proposed Summer Schedule would be the Saturday Vigil Mass at 5PM (remains the same); the 7:30 AM Sunday Mass (remains the same); the 9:30 AM Sunday Mass (remains the same); the 11:00 AM Sunday Mass is cancelled and its place a 4:00 PM Sunday evening Mass replaces the 11:00 AM Sunday Mass. During the summer many families are actively involved in going somewhere or involved in house repairs, gardening and the like. Also by 11:00 AM many of our children and young people are involved in sporting games or activities. Today's life style is very different from the one many of us grew up with. Going to Mass was always the first thing we did; today so many activities are pulling us in so many directions. It would be so easy to say well you must change; however, I believe these are not the words Jesus would scream out. He would go and meet His people wherever they were. And so He would go to be with His people as the Sunday began to come to a close. The grocery shopping is done, as is the gardening, the ball games and other trips and activities also coming to an end. It is time to slow down, clean ourselves up, prepare for dinner and come rest in the Lord. Another consideration also is that sometime in the not too distant future, I

more than likely will be here alone with no brother Priests to assist in celebrating Masses. As I age, three (3) Sunday morning Masses, one right after the other, is just a little tiring; a little break in between is refreshing. It would also give me the opportunity to hear Confessions not only before the Saturday Vigil Mass, but also before the Sunday 4:00 PM Mass. Just possibly it would make it so much easier for many to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation. With our busy schedules and events, I believe Jesus wants to speak to us when we are able to truly hear Him, not in the rushing here and there, but in the quiet, not rushed moments. After all it is our God who says .... "Be still and know that I am God." We can see how this goes for the summer and evaluate whether we would like to make these Mass times permanent. What is your opinion. (drop a note in the collection basket if you like). Adding Masses is not a solution, it is really impossible when there are no priests to say more Masses. What is your opinion.

We must always remember who we are: "We are the parish family of St. Philip Neri. We are a people of the Eucharist. We are Catholic."

Father Roncase

### **The 100th Anniversary Sharing our Blessings**

Just a few clarifications: The collection will end on December 2018; the collection began in January 2014. It is a 60 month Campaign. We have pledged to raise a minimum of \$100,000 for the Poor in the Valley in Thanksgiving to God for the 100th Anniversary of the Canonical Founding of St. Philip Neri Parish here in the Valley. So far we have twenty-six (26) months behind us and thirty-four (34) months to go and because of the generosity of you the good people of St. Philip Neri, the amount collected as of February 28, 2016, totals \$61,398. The collected money will not go to individuals directly, but to the area Organizations that care for our local poor. All money is to go to the poor and not administrative expenses or salaries.

A Parish Board has been established to vet and make decisions about the distribution of the Fund to the local groups. The board is made up of myself, our Deacons, Sister Patricia, our Parish Lawyer and fellow parishioners highly qualified with Business, Medical, and Social Service Degrees. It is an impressive Board.

God Bless you for your continued generosity.  
Father Roncase

**Serving at Mass**  
**Extraordinary Ministers**

5:00 pm - Janet Kendra  
 Alice Swift  
 Priest  
 Deacon  
 Dave Moser  
 Trudy Moser

7:30 am - Maureen Moser  
 Paul Moser  
 Priest  
 Deacon  
 Terry Quatrani  
 John McHale

9:30 am - Judy Horvath  
 Matt Horvath  
 Priest  
 Deacon  
 Ken Mayer  
 Marilyn Mayer  
 Cecilia Kirkwood  
 John McHale  
 Mary Souder  
 Andrew Souder  
 Alicia Tryon  
 Edmond Tryon

11:00 am - Doug DiTondo  
 Linda DiTondo  
 Priest  
 Deacon  
 Madeleine Gehringer  
 Marlene Leidy

**Fourth Sunday of Lent**

**March 6, 2016**

Monday, March 7, Saints Perpetua and Felicity

6:30 am - Lenten Communion Service  
 5:00 pm - Lester Kemp,  
 (Charles & Eileen McMillen)

Tuesday, March 8, Saint John of God

6:30 am - Lenten Communion Service  
 8:00 am - Karl Heebner,  
 (Lee & Joe Johnson)

Wednesday, March 9, Saint Frances of Rome

6:30 am - Lenten Communion Service  
 8:00 am - Mary & Joe Kaiser,  
 (Gloria Kaiser)

Thursday, March 10

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

Friday, March 11

6:30 am - Mass in Chapel  
 8:00 am - Beatrice Breidenbach,  
 (Jim & Denise Breidenbach)

**March 13**  
**Lectors**

Renee DeGrassi  
 Pete Frank

Chris Mullaney  
 Ernie Quatrani

D. McCausland  
 Adam Canigiani

Luke Verna

Saturday, March 12

9:00 am - Kenneth Mayall, (Marion family)  
 5:00 pm - Florence & William Lampart,  
 (Ed & Joan Lampart)

**Fifth Sunday of Lent**  
**March 13, 2016**

7:30 am - For the living and deceased Members  
 of the Parish.

9:30 am - Agnes Craig Bradley,  
 (Tony & Joan Pongia)

11:00 am - Helen Patzek-Charlton,  
 (McCausland family)

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

For those who have died, and in particular for  
**Joseph Iski & Alfred Wampole III,** grant them  
 eternal rest and peace.

**MARCH 2016**

**This week at a glance**

**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
Youth Ministry	5:30 pm Parish Hall

**Monday - March 7**

Holy Rosary Mass	1:00 pm Chapel
Parish Pastoral Council Mtg.	7:00 pm Parish Hall
SPN Quilting	1:30 pm Parish Hall

**Tuesday - March 8**

Boy Scouts	7:00 pm Parish Hall
Car Show Committee Meeting	7:00 pm Rectory

**Wednesday - March 9**

PREP/Religious Education	6:30 pm SPN CFLC
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**Thursday - March 10**

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

**Friday - March 11**

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 - March 12**

Breakfast setup 7:00 am Parish Hall

**Sunday - March 13**

Children's Liturgy of the Word at the 9:30 am Mass  
 KOC Council Meeting 7:30 pm Rectory  
 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

**Upcoming Meetings**

Holy Rosary Hour - Monday, March 14 - Holy Rosary Hour - 1:00 pm - Chapel  
 Prayer Shawl Ministry - Monday, March 14 - 7:00 pm at the Neri Center  
 SPN Quilting - Monday, March 14 - 1:30 pm - Parish Hall  
 Boy Scouts - Tuesday, March 15 - 7:00 pm - Parish Hall  
 PREP/Religious Education - Wednesday, March 16 - 6:30 pm at SPN CFLC  
 Bible Study - Thursday, March 17 - 7pm - Neri Center  
 NO Men's Basketball - Thursday, March 17  
 RCIA - Thursday, March 17 - 7:00 pm - Rectory  
 Stations of the Cross - Thursday, March 17 - 7:00 pm in Church  
 Bible Study - Friday, March 18 - 9am - Neri Center  
 Lenten Fish Fry (Lunch) - Friday, March 18 - 11:00 am - 2:00 pm - Parish Hall  
 Lenten Fish Fry (Dinner) - Friday, March 18 - 4:30 pm - 6:30 pm - Parish Hall  
 Frontier Girls - Friday, March 18 - 6:30 pm - Parish Hall  
 KOC Come-n-Go Bingo - Saturday, March 19 - 6:30 pm - Parish Hall (doors open at 6pm)  
 Children's Liturgy of the Word - Sunday, March 20 - at 9:30 am Mass  
 Palm Sunday - March 20: Masses: 5:00 pm Vigil Mass; 7:30 am; 9:30 am & 11:30 am  
 Little Church - Sunday, March 20 - 9:30 am - Parish Hall Meeting Rooms  
 Men's Basketball - Sunday, March 20 - 8:00 pm - 10:00 pm - Parish Hall  
 Youth Ministry - Sunday, March 20 - 5:30 pm - 7:30 pm - Parish Hall

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS**

Stations of the Cross during Lent are held on Thursday evenings in Church at 7PM:  
**March 10th & 17th.**

**Contribution Statements 2015**

Call or email the rectory office at 215.679.9275 (10:00 am - 4:30 pm) or email to: [smisiak@spnparish.org](mailto:smisiak@spnparish.org).

**PARISH NEWS**

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

**Names/email addresses:**

Tony Bauer	<a href="mailto:ajbauer337@gmail.com">ajbauer337@gmail.com</a>
Matthew Fuhs	<a href="mailto:matthew.fuhs@comcast.net">matthew.fuhs@comcast.net</a>
Dave Klaunder	<a href="mailto:stickman@enter.net">stickman@enter.net</a>
Marlene Leidy	<a href="mailto:marleneleidy@comcast.net">marleneleidy@comcast.net</a>
Ed Tryon	<a href="mailto:greeneng2001@yahoo.com">greeneng2001@yahoo.com</a>
Theresa Walker	<a href="mailto:cheg1978@comcast.net">cheg1978@comcast.net</a>

**SUNDAY COLLECTIONS**

March 1, 2015	February 28, 2016
Envelopes: \$ 7,453.00	\$ 6,890.00
Online: 1,851.00	1,532.00
Loose: 1,374.00	915.00
Children: 35.00	73.00
Total: \$10,713.00	\$ 9,410.00
Aging & Ill Priests:	\$ 950.00

**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](http://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.**

## **LENTEN FISH FRY**

**SPN Parish Hall**

**EAT-IN OR TAKE-OUT**

**LUNCH EVERY FRIDAY DURING LENT**

**March 11, 18 & 25**

**11:00 AM - 2:00 PM**

**Orders taken during Fry Hours: 215.679.8116**

**DINNERS:**

**March 11 & 18**

**4:30 PM - 6:30 PM**

## **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

## **SPN SENIOR CLUB NEWS**

Just a reminder . . . Listed below are the SPN Senior Club Luncheon dates for the Calendar Year 2016. Be sure to mark your calendar and save the dates!

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 Joe Dusko at: 25.679.4881 or email: [skippyfish@comcast.net](mailto:skippyfish@comcast.net).

## **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**

### **MORE SPN SENIOR CLUB NEWS**

On February 24, the SPN Senior Club held their monthly gathering and we had close to 90 seniors in attendance. A big thank you goes out to everyone who brought baked goods for our dessert table.

We had many winners at this month's luncheon. Our February birthday winner was Leanette Jones and the 50/50 winner was Dolores Bucci.

Door prizes went to: Rene Albert, Pat Balduzzi, Peg Bolognese, Carol Evanish, Madeleine Gehringer, Frank Grim, Barb Henry, Jean Hollinger, Sue Jacobs, Gloria Kaiser and Frank Kendra. Congratulations to all! Save the date for our next gathering: March 23. Keep checking the Bulletin for more information.

### **PARISH OUTREACH**

**Bereavement Support Group:** Our Spring Bereavement Support Group will begin on Thursday, April 7 and will continue to meet on Thursday mornings on April 14, 21, 28, May 5 and 12.

Meetings will begin at 10:00 AM to 11:30 AM in the Parish Outreach Office. If you plan to participate, call Sister Patricia at 215.679.2282. If no answer, please speak slowly and leave a message.

### **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 22 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](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ds7nD_QNeKA)  
[www.youtube.com/watch?v=IKSwALODvT0](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IKSwALODvT0)

### **SPN CATHOLIC FAMILY LIFE CENTER**

It is still not too late to join any of the programs listed in Spring 2016 Program Catalog. We would like very much to have you join any of the programs. Just check us out!

Tickets are still available for our trip to the Philadelphia Flower Show on Friday, March 11. Ticket cost is \$35.00 We will be leaving the Catholic Family Life Center at 12:00 noon. We will be leaving the Show between 5 and 5:30 p.m. and should be back at the center by 7:00 p.m. Reservations must be made by Monday, March 7 in order to purchase tickets prior to the trip.

Movie Night will be held on Friday, March 11 at 7:00 p.m. in the Neri Center. The movie will "Diary of City Priest".

April's trip will be to the National Shrine of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton in Maryland on Saturday, April 30. We will be leaving the Catholic Family Life Center at 6:30 a.m. Tickets: \$58/Adults; \$55/Children (12 & Under). Cost includes transportation, tickets for the tour; and dinner. Make checks payable to the Catholic Family Life Center. You may mail them to the Center, drop in collection basket or register online: [www.catholicfamilylifecenter.com](http://www.catholicfamilylifecenter.com).

### **MARK YOUR CALENDAR** **APRIL 3, 2016 AT 3:00 pm** **DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY**

"Merciful like the Father" is the motto Pope Francis has chosen for the extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy which will run from December 8, 2015 to November 20, 2016. It comes from Luke 6:36, "Be merciful just as your Father is merciful".

Divine Mercy Sunday is the first Sunday after Easter and people all over the world will celebrate this Feast of Mercy. It is a day chosen by Christ as a day of extraordinary graces, a complete outpouring of His mercy upon all who approach Him with great trust and faith. It is a time where we will come to appreciate the immense gift which God offers us on the Feast of Mercy and through the devotion to His Divine Mercy. Let us experience the joy of encountering that grace which transforms all things.

Any questions please contact Dawn Ellis 215-679-2160.

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

## **SUNDAY, MARCH 6, 2016**

### **FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT; SECOND SCRUTINY OF THE ELECT**

#### **Pass it on**

The song “Tradition” from *The Fiddler on the Roof* suggests that when we don’t have a clear reason for doing things a certain way, we call it “tradition”! However, the Latin root of *tradition* means handing down information or beliefs by word-of-mouth or by example from one generation to another. When it comes to preparing candidates for Baptism, the role of catechist is key and includes the passing on “by example.” To say, “We’re all catechists” is heavy-handed, but catechist or not, you *are* passing on the faith by example. What is your example (and not just in church)?

TODAY’S READINGS: *1 Samuel 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a; Ephesians 5:8-14; John 9:1-41 (31)*. “It is so that the works of God might be made visible through him.”

## **MONDAY, MARCH 7**

### **FEAST OF PERPETUA AND FELICITY, MARTYRS**

#### **Shining the light of hope**

Perpetua and Felicity were imprisoned by the Romans in the early third century because of their faith. Until the time they were put to death, Perpetua kept a diary. She describes visits from her father, who begs her to renounce her faith. She describes tender moments with her child, the birth of Felicity’s baby, and visions about martyrdom. The diary reflects the women’s steadfast faith that God was with them, offering meaning and hope as they faced persecution. Today, let us ask Perpetua and Felicity to shine God’s light of hope upon all who suffer religious, social, and political injustice.

TODAY’S READINGS: *Isaiah 65:17-21;*

*John 4:43-54 (244)*. “See, I am creating new heavens and a new earth.”

## **TUESDAY, MARCH 8**

### **FEAST OF JOHN OF GOD, RELIGIOUS**

#### **We’re lost until we’re found**

Portuguese born João Duarte Cidade, who we remember as John of God, offers inspiration and hope to anyone searching for their life calling. As a child in the early 1500s he was kidnapped, then left as a homeless beggar. He was a shepherd, then a soldier, then a shepherd again, then again a soldier and would-be Crusader, then on to a printer’s apprentice. Perhaps no wonder that a nervous breakdown followed. But at long last, in his mid-40s he had an awaking to his religious vocation. If you’re not sure where you’re going in life, keep your heart open, and your vocation will find you. God’s on the journey with you!

TODAY’S READINGS: *Ezekiel 47:1-9, 12; John 5:1-16 (245)*. “Do you want to be well?”

## **WEDNESDAY, MARCH 9**

### **FEAST OF FRANCES OF ROME, RELIGIOUS**

#### **Living your vocation in the world**

Do you wish you could share in the communal spirit of a religious community but have worldly commitments that don’t allow for formal religious life? There is another option, as exemplified by Frances of Rome, an Italian saint who was a wife, mother, mystic, organizer of charitable services, and a Benedictine oblate who founded a religious community of laypeople who shared a common life without religious vows. Associations whose members share in the spirit of a religious order or institute while remaining in the secular world are often called third orders (the first and second orders being the community’s vowed religious men



and woman). You can read more about “Associations of the Christian Faithful” at

**Code of Canon Law, canon 303**  
**(www.vatican.va/archive/ENG1104/P11.HTM).**

TODAY’S READINGS: *Isaiah 49:8-15; John 5:17-30 (246)*. “I do not seek my own will but the will of the one who sent me.”

#### **THURSDAY, MARCH 10**

##### **LENTEN WEEKDAY**

##### **All the way to beauty**

How do you get from here to beauty? Catherine of Genoa found a way that sounds odd to modern ears: through purgatory. This devout woman wrote her *Treatise on Purgatory* after an experience she describes as God’s final great mercy. The church views purgatory as a time rather than a place: literally the time it takes for a heaven-bound soul to arrive at perfection. Purgation is preparation for happiness, not punishment for sin. To arrive at ultimate beauty, most of us need to peel the last resistance to grace from our hearts.

TODAY’S READINGS: *Exodus 32:7-14; John 5:31-47 (247)*. “Let your blazing wrath die down; relent in punishing your people.”

#### **FRIDAY, MARCH 11**

##### **LENTEN WEEKDAY; DAY OF ABSTINENCE**

##### **Be sweet without the sweets**

Two weeks from Lent’s end, some of us may be burned out on seasonal sacrifice. Maybe we had the proverbial hot dog on a Friday, or ate the brownie we swore off these 40 days. Indulging in a lobster feast doesn’t quite match the spirit of Friday abstinence either. Whatever we consume by mistake or out of weakness, we need not be consumed by self-loathing. Nor is it good to fast perfectly but take it out on everybody. John Cassian wrote: “What we gain from fasting does not compensate for what we lose through anger.” Show

mercy on yourself and others for shortcomings, Lenten and otherwise.

TODAY’S READINGS: *Wisdom 2:1a, 12-22;*

*John 7:1-2, 10, 25-30 (248)*. “His life is not like that of others, and different are his ways.”

#### **SATURDAY, MARCH 12**

##### **LENTEN WEEKDAY**

##### **Part of the crowd**

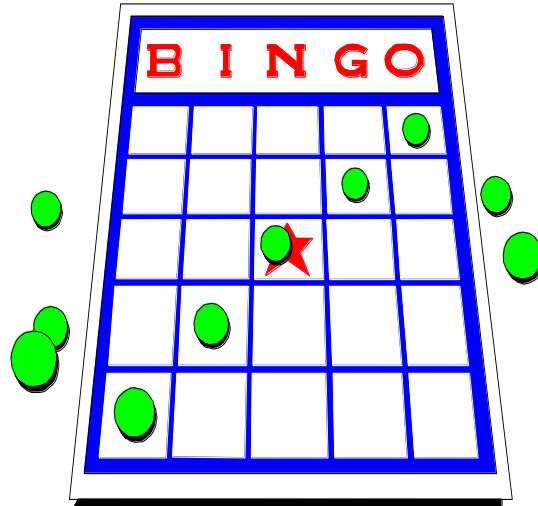
In scripture, we’re often in the company of crowds: crowds that follow Jesus and are fed by him; crowds that ask Jesus and church officials some tough questions; crowds with a mob mentality; thoughtful crowds that are trying make sense of confusing things they’ve seen and heard. The crowds offer diverse perspectives, such that we might better understand who Jesus is and what it means to believe. As you hang out with your crowds today—in scripture and at work, school, and home—what new insights about Jesus might they offer you?

TODAY’S READINGS: *Jeremiah 11:18-20;*

*John 7:40-53 (249)*. “Some in the crowd who heard these words said, ‘This is truly the Prophet.’ Others said, ‘This is the Messiah.’ But others said, ‘The Messiah will not come from Galilee, will he?’ ”



# ST. PHILIP NERI – SUNDAY BINGO



**March 6, 2016**

**Working Team #3**

Bingo begins at 1PM;

Doors open at 12 NOON

Parish Hall

1325 Kliner Rd – Pennsburg

215.679.8116

All Regular Games Prize is \$50

Final Cover All-Special – Prize is \$500

Great food available!

# Parish Council At-Large

## **Nominations are being accepted for Parish Council At-Large Representative:**

Nominations are now being accepted from any parishioner 18yrs of age or older who may be interested in participating in Parish Council as an At-Large Representative.

The At-Large representative is an important component within the parish council structure, as they help foster and strengthen communications within the parish community. The representative is expected to attend all Parish Council meetings which occur on selected Mondays five – six times a year between September and June.

To submit your or any parishioner's name for consideration, please complete the nomination information, place it in an envelope and either put it in the collection basket, dropping it off or mail it back to the rectory; please note on the envelope "At-Large Nominee".

If you have any questions please email Pete Franks (Nominations Chair) at - [thefranks1@comcast.net](mailto:thefranks1@comcast.net)

**The deadline for receiving all nominations is Monday, April 25, 2016.**

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### **Nomination Form**

Please print

**Name of Nominee:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address (if known):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone # (if known):** \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

**Email Address (If known):** \_\_\_\_\_ @ \_\_\_\_\_