



Saint Gertrude Parish

A Pennsylvania Charitable Trust

303 Franklin Ave • Vandergrift, Pennsylvania 15690

March 24, 2019

The Third Sunday of Lent

Fr. James Loew, O.S.B. *Pastor*,
(724) 568-2331 Fax: (724) 568-2030

Fr. Michael J. Sciberras
Senior Priest Active

Sr. Mercy Francis, S.M.I.,
Pastoral Minister

Katie Tylinski (724) 212-6740
Regional Director of Faith Formation
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Mr. James Peterman
Assistant to the Regional Director of Faith Formation
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Cardinal Maida Academy
Mrs. Patricia Visnick, *Principal*
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School Fax (724) 567-1900

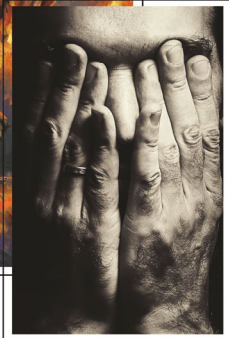
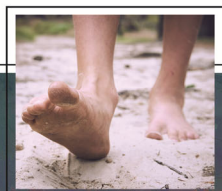
Baptisms
By appointment. Baptismal preparation is necessary. Call for classes

Marriage Arrangements must be made at least 8 months in advance. No marriage dates will be given until meeting with the priest and all preparation is ready.

Sunday Mass Schedule
Saturday Vigil 4:00 p.m.
Sunday 8:00 a.m., 10:30 a.m.

See Bulletin for daily Mass Schedule
Wednesday 9:00 a.m. During School Year
Holy Day Mass Schedule
Holy Day ~ 9:00 am, 6:00 pm

Office Hours
Monday-Thursday 9:00 am - 4:00
Friday- Closed
Confessions Saturday ~ 3:15-3:45pm or by Appointment



God called out to Moses from the burning bush and said, "Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place where you stand is holy ground."
~ Exodus 3:4, 5



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Pastoral Council Mission Statement

We, the partnered parish communities of St. Gertrude and Christ the King, are faith-filled Catholics who have been called by our Baptism and empowered by the Good News of Jesus Christ to be Church for all. Although made up of multi-cultural faith communities we are ever united by our common faith.

We are committed to "building up the Body of Christ" through Word, Worship, Evangelization, Leadership, Service, Stewardship, and Fellowship. Dedicated to deepening our love of Christ and one another, together we strive to become a living reflection of Christ for our region.

We willingly accept our obligation to be the "Light of the World" for others and in that spirit we promise to use our resources to practice gospel justice, to heal divisive wounds among God's People and to join with all people of good will in addressing the spiritual and physical needs of all.

ST. GERTRUDE

Treasures from Our Tradition

Hollywood has given us an image of Moses slipping off his shoes before a burning bush. God has just called Moses by name, and so that Moses doesn't miss the meaning of this breakthrough in human history, God requires that all barriers to the experience be eliminated. If you've ever tried to maneuver barefoot across hot sand, or pick your way along a rocky beach, you know how sensitive feet can be. Within the Church, there are religious orders with a custom of going barefoot, not merely to show poverty, but to be an outward sign of a desire for connection with creation, a desire to go through life alert to what God is doing. In early days, when reconciliation was a once-in-a-lifetime possibility, penitents often went barefoot for a long period of time as a sign of their conversion. Even today, people follow an ancient practice of slipping off their shoes to walk in the procession to the cross on Good Friday. It is striking that the first use of our newly-scrubbed feet from Holy Thursday night is to walk resolutely in the footsteps of Christ to the cross.

Readings for the Week

Monday: Is 7:10-14, 8:10; Ps 40:7-11; Heb 10:4-10; Lk 1:26-38

Tuesday: Dn 3:25, 34-43; Ps 25:4-5ab, 6-7bc, 8-9; Mt 18:21-35

Wednesday: Dt 4:1, 5-9; Ps 147:12-13, 15-16, 19-20; Mt 5:17-19

Thursday: Jer 7:23-28; Ps 95:1-2, 6-9; Lk 11:14-23

Friday: Hos 14:2-10; Ps 81:6c-11ab, 14, 17; Mk 12:28-34

Saturday: Hos 6:1-6; Ps 51:3-4, 18-21ab; Lk 18:9-14

Sunday: Jos 5:9a, 10-12; Ps 34:2-7; 2 Cor 5:17-21; Lk 15:1-3, 11-32

Alternate readings (Year A):

1 Sm 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a; Ps 23:1-6;

Eph 5:8-14; Jn 9:1-41 [1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38]

Mid-Lent Check In

God says to Moses, "This is what you shall tell the Israelites: I AM sent me to you . . . The LORD, the God of your [ancestors], the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, the God of Jacob (Exodus 3:14, 15). As Jesus would later say, God is not a God of the dead, but of the living, and so we believe that the dead will one day rise. At this midpoint of Lent, we pause to consider how our repentance is leading us to the Resurrection, to our reunion with the great I AM. Part of our repentance involves working to secure justice for all and helping our neighbor to live in God's ways. We encourage each other and nurture each other, like the compassionate gardener of today's Gospel, who tells the owner of the orchard that he will nurture the tree, fertilize it, and perhaps it will bear fruit.

Today's Readings

First Reading -- I have witnessed the affliction of my people in Egypt and have come to rescue them (Exodus 3:1-8a, 13-15) or Exodus 17:3-7.

Psalm -- The Lord is kind and merciful (Psalm 103) or Psalm 95.

Second Reading -- Those who think they are standing secure should take care not to fall (1 Corinthians 10:1-6, 10-12) or Romans 5:1-2, 5-8.

Gospel -- I shall cultivate the ground around the fig tree and fertilize it; it may bear fruit in the future (Luke 13: 1-9) or John 4:5-42 [5-15, 19b-26, 39a, 40-42].

Seder Dinner

Attention students in K-5 and their families: Please join us for our Seder Dinner on Sunday, April 14th at Christ the King Hall at 5:00 PM. Seder (meaning "order" in Hebrew) is a story shaped by prayer and praise. Christians share with Jews, the story of slavery to freedom through a covenant with the Lord and delivery to a Promised Land. This ritual is celebrated as a springtime holiday—with the hope of creation that life is made new again. Please plan to join in this special Passover Celebration. Please RSVP no later than Sunday, April 7th to the Faith Formation Office and indicate the number attending. The traditional Seder is followed by a dinner. Cost: Free.

Third Sunday of Lent
March 24, 2019

Memorial Candle
John & Angelina Palatella
By
Children Mary, Vito & Rosalind

March 30th & 31st

4:00p.m. ~ Renee & Casey
Tomiczek
8:00a.m. ~ Joey & Nicholas
DiFilippio
10:30a.m. ~ Joseph Collini
Ashley Scanga

Collection March 16th & 17th

Envelopes ~ \$4,975.00
Children's ~ \$3.00
Loose ~ \$483.93
Church Restoration ~ \$30.00
Utilities ~ \$205.00

Electronic Funding

January ~ \$2205
February ~ \$1525

Spaghetti Dinner

Ministries asked to provide dessert and/or work at the March 28 Spaghetti Dinner: Eucharistic Ministers & First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association—Branch 262.

Christ the King

Christ the King Parish, 125 Park Road, Leechburg, will be selling nut, poppy seed and apricot rolls for \$11.50 each, and Paska bread (round or braided/with or without raisins) for \$6.50 each. Deadline for roll orders is Monday, March 25th; deadline for Paska bread orders is Monday, April 1st. To order, call 724-842-0623 or 724-845-8615.

Mount Saint Peter Parish

Fish fry Fridays March 8 to April 12th. Eat in or Take out. 11:00 to 6:00. Take out orders call 724-335-1458. Call in orders accepted from 11:00am to 5:00pm. Orders must be picked up by 6:00pm. Credit/Debit cards accepted for payment for all orders. Allow a minimum of 45 to 60 minutes for order prep before pick up.

Diocesan Lenten Appeal

“Open your heart to HOPE,” the 2019 Diocesan Lenten Appeal, helps HOPE grow. Go to dioceseofgreensburg.org/HOPE for a video of Bishop Malesic describing how the DLA grows our faith so we can share it with others. To make an online DLA donation to your parish visit dioceseofgreensburg.org/HOPE.

The Well—Men's Conference

The diocese's Men's Ministry Team will host THE WELL Men's Conference on March 30 at Greensburg Central Catholic. The event includes workshops,

open discussions, the sacraments of reconciliation and adoration, and it concludes with Mass celebrated by Bishop Malesic. The keynote speaker will be Mike McCoy, an Erie native who is a former Notre Dame and NFL star. Register at www.dioceseofgreensburg.org/THEWELL.

Strength to Split Rocks

Do you know that oftentimes a root has split a rock, when suffered to remain in it? Give no judgment to the seed of evil, seeing that it will break up your faith.
--St. Cyril of Jerusalem

Regional Penance Service Schedule

Thursday, April 4: Our Lady, Queen of Peace, East Vandergrift, 7:00pm.

Tuesday, April 9; St. Joseph Church, New Kensington, 7:00pm

Wednesday, April 10; Christ the King Leechburg, 7:00pm.

Thursday, April 11; St. Margaret Mary, Lower Burrell, 7:00pm.


St. Gertrude
CEMETERY & MAUSOLEUM

Calendar of Faith Formation Sessions
(Grades K-5) for March/April (6:00-7:30 PM)
at St. James

April 7th & 14th—Seder Dinner at Christ the King replaces the session

Be sure to check KDKA-TV for snow cancellations.

FUSED 4 ~ March/April LIFETEEN/EDGE CAL-
ENDAR

(EDGE: Grades 6th-8th/LIFETEEN: grades 9th
12th ~ St. James Parish Underground/Upper
Rooms ~ 6:00-7:30 PM)

March: 24th—Youth Mass ~ 31st—Session

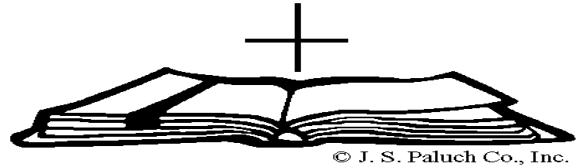
Extra activities: March 28th—Kiski's musical,
“The Sound of Music” (if you registered)

April: 7th—No EDGE/LIFETEEN (see note below) ~ 14th—No EDGE/LIFETEEN (see note below) ~ 21st—NO EDGE/LIFETEEN ~ 28th—Youth Mass at 5:00 PM at St. James with AMP to follow in the parish hall

Extra Activities: April 7th—Tajci Lenten Service at 6:00 PM at St. James (in place of EDGE/LIFETEEN), 14th—Seder Dinner at Christ the King at 5:00 PM

The deadline for the National Catholic Youth Conference has been extended. Please contact the Youth Ministry Office as soon as possible if you are interested in attending or would like more information. Don't miss out on this life-changing experience!

Mass Intentions



Saturday, March 23, Vigil The Third Sunday of Lent
4:00p.m. †Marlene Dawkins

Sunday, March 24, The Third Sunday of Lent
8:00a.m. †Joseph & Henrietta Martier
10:30a.m. †Living and Deceased of Our Parish

Monday, March 25, The Annunciation of the Lord
8:30a.m. †Warren Schrum

Tuesday, March 26, Lenten Weekday
8:30a.m. †Special Intention

Wednesday, March 27, Lenten Weekday
9:00a.m. †Mary Ann Yano

Thursday, March 28, Lenten Weekday
8:30a.m. †Special Intention

Friday, March 29, Lenten Weekday
8:30a.m. †Raymond Schrum, Jr.
12:10p.m. Stations of the Cross at St. Gertrude
6:30p.m. Stations of the Cross at Christ the King

Saturday, March 30, Lenten Weekday
8:30a.m. †Mass at Christ the King

Saturday, March 30, Vigil, Fourth Sunday of Lent
4:00p.m. †Anthony DePanicis

Sunday March 31, Fourth Sunday of Lent
8:00a.m. †Living and Deceased of Our Parish
10:30a.m. †Fr. Arnel Estrella