

# Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Church Newsletter

April 3, 2022

My Dear Parishioners,

I would like to thank everyone and anyone who had anything to do with supporting our Parish Mission. The mission was a great success. I believe that so many of us found it a life changing experience. Whether we found ourselves seriously discerning who, or what, reigns on the thrones of our hearts, or praying before the Blessed Sacrament for the first time in years, or found ourselves going to Confession for the first time in years, or found ourselves really making honest prayer for the first time in years, we found this past week a special encounter with God and a life changing experience. So many of us feel so much closer to God now than we did at the start of the mission.

We can call an experience like this “A Mountain Top Experience.” A mountain top experience is a special encounter with God that gives us an adrenaline rush and an emotional high. These mountain top experiences are truly a gift from God, and we raise our voices in praise and thanksgiving for His gift of this past week.

Thankfully, our special encounter with God continues in our parish with our beautiful and engaging Liturgies, our weekly Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, our excellent CCD program, our CYO, our Life in the Spirit Group, our Women of Grace Group, our P3 Prayer Group, our Lectio Divina Scripture Prayer Group, our Legion of Mary, our Knights of Columbus, our Respect Life Group and so many other groups who help to bring us closer to Christ.

As I said last week, everything we do as a parish is to help grow in the Love of God. We do this, because His love is the answer to all questions and all problems in this world.

So, as we move forward from this past week’s mission we do so with confidence. We, moreover, accept the challenge of this past week’s mission, and every day ask ourselves that question from the first night of the mission: who, or what, reigns on the thrones of our hearts?

To help us further keep Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ on the thrones of our hearts, we will have Lenten Confessions in our church on this Thursday, April 7<sup>th</sup>. Confessions are from 4:00 - 5:00 PM, and again from 7:00-7:30 PM.

To help us prepare for our Lenten Confessions, I have included some words from our Holy Father, Pope Francis, on the beauty and power of Confession, along with a Lenten Examination of Conscience from the blog, Word of Fire.

Let us continue to pray our Rosaries and our Chaplets for peace in Ukraine, peace in our world, the end of the pandemic and for each other.

Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, have mercy on us!

Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, pray for us!

Fr. Michael J. Pawelko, Pastor





# Homily of His Holiness Pope Francis

Vatican Basilica

Friday, 25 March 2022

In the Gospel reading for today's Solemnity, the angel Gabriel speaks three times in addressing the Virgin Mary.

The first is when he greets her and says, "Rejoice, full of grace, the Lord is with you" (Lk 1:28). The reason to rejoice, the reason for joy, is revealed in those few words: the Lord is with you. Dear brother, dear sister, today you can hear those words addressed to you. You can make them your own each time you approach God's forgiveness, for there the Lord tells you, "I am with you". All too often, we think that Confession is about going to God with dejected looks. Yet it is not so much that we go to the Lord, but that he comes to us, to fill us with his grace, to fill us with his joy. Our confession gives the Father the joy of raising us up once more. It is not so much about our sins as about his forgiveness. Our sins are present but the forgiveness of God is always at the heart of our confession. Think about it: if our sins were at the heart of the sacrament, almost everything would depend on us, on our repentance, our efforts, our resolves. Far from it. The sacrament is about God, who liberates us and puts us back on our feet.

Let us recognize once more the primacy of grace and ask for the gift to realize that Reconciliation is not primarily our drawing near to God, but his embrace that enfolds, astonishes and overwhelms us. The Lord enters our home, as he did that of Mary in Nazareth, and brings us unexpected amazement and joy - the joy of forgiveness. Let us first look at things from God's perspective: then we will rediscover our love for Confession. We need this, for every interior rebirth, every spiritual renewal, starts there, from God's forgiveness. May we not neglect Reconciliation, but rediscover it as the sacrament of joy. Yes, the sacrament of joy, for our shame for our sins becomes the occasion for an experience of the warm embrace of the Father, the gentle strength of Jesus who heals us, and the "maternal tenderness" of the Holy Spirit. That is the heart of Confession.

Dear brothers and sisters, let us go forth and receive forgiveness. And you, dear brother priests who are ministers of God's forgiveness, offer to those who approach you the joy of this proclamation: Rejoice, the Lord is with you. Please set aside rigidity, obstacles and harshness; may you be doors wide open to mercy! Especially in Confession, we are called to act in the person of the Good Shepherd who takes his sheep into his arms and cradles them. We are called to be channels of grace that pour forth the living water of the Father's mercy on hearts grown arid. If a priest does not approach Confession with this attitude, it would be better for him to refrain from celebrating the sacrament.

A second time the angel speaks to Mary. She was troubled by his greeting, and so he tells her, "Do not be afraid" (v. 30). The first time he says, "The Lord is with you". Now, the second time, he says "Do not be afraid". In the Scriptures, whenever God appears to those who receive him, he loves to utter those words: Do not be afraid! He says them to Abraham (cf. Gen 15:1), repeats them to Isaac (cf. Gen 26:24), to Jacob (cf. Gen 46:3) and so on, up to Joseph (cf. Mt 1:20) and Mary. Do not be afraid! In this way, he sends us a clear and comforting message: once our lives are open to God, fear can no longer hold us in thrall. For fear can truly hold us in thrall. You, dear sister, dear brother, if your sins frighten you, if your past worries you, if your wounds do not heal, if your constant failings dishearten you and you seem to have lost hope, please, do not be afraid. God knows your weaknesses and is greater than your mistakes. God is greater than our sins. He asks of you only one thing: that you not hold your frailties and sufferings inside. Bring them to him, lay them before him and, from being reasons for despair, they will become opportunities for resurrection. Do not be afraid! The Lord asks us for our sins. This brings to mind the story of a monk in the desert. He had given everything to God and lived a life of fasting, penance and prayer. The Lord asked for more. "Lord, I gave you everything", said the monk, "what more is there?" The Lord replied, "Give me yours sins". Do not be afraid!

The Blessed Virgin Mary accompanies us: she cast her own anxiety upon God. The angel's proclamation gave her good reason to be afraid. He proposed to her something unimaginable and beyond her abilities, something that she could not handle alone: there would be too many difficulties, problems with the Mosaic law, with Joseph, with the citizens of her town and with her people. Yet Mary did not object. Those words – do not be afraid – were sufficient for her; God's reassurance was enough for her. She clung to him, as we want to do tonight. Yet so often we do the exact opposite. We start from our own certainties and, when we lose them, we turn to God. Our Lady, on the other hand, teaches us to start from God, trusting that in this way everything else will be given to us (cf. Mt 6:33). She invites us to go to the source, to the Lord, who is the ultimate remedy against fear and emptiness in life. There is a lovely phrase written above a confessional here in the Vatican that reminds us of this. It addresses God with these words, "To turn away from you is to fall, to turn back to you is to rise, to abide in you is to have life" (cf. SAINT AUGUSTINE, Soliloquies I, 3).



# *An Examination of Conscience for Lent Bearing Fruit for the Lord*

(From the World on Fire Website)

**Remember what happens in Jesus' parable of the sower and the seed** (Mark 4:1-20)? Only the seed that falls on rich soil bears fruit. Jesus says these "are the ones who hear the word and accept it" (4:20).

Lent is the perfect time to become that rich soil. So how do we do it? We can begin by identifying any ways in which we may have rejected or turned away from God and his word. This examination of conscience can help you do just that. Then in the Sacrament of Reconciliation, you can receive Jesus' forgiveness. As you experience the healing power of his mercy, your "soil" will be nourished and strengthened—all so that you can bear fruit for him and his kingdom!

## **Love of God**

- Who, or what, reigns on the throne of my heart? Do I allow other things, or people, to get in the way of my daily practice of the Faith? Do I allow other things, or people, to get in the way of my weekly attendance of Mass?
- Have I loved God above all else, or have I allowed other things—money, popularity, image, success—to motivate me and have primary place in my heart?
- Are there areas in my life that I am holding back from God? Secret parts I don't want to expose to the light of his love?
- Have I shown disrespect for God's name by misusing it in anger or frustration?
- Have I been nourishing my relationship with God through prayer and Scripture reading? Do I pray daily to the Blessed Mother and Saints?
- Have I been faithful in honoring the Lord on the Sabbath by going to Mass?

## **Love of Neighbor**

- Do I pray for my neighbor? Do I pray for those who have anger towards? Do I pray daily for those who have disrespected me? Do I hold grudges?
- Do I pray daily for those who have fallen away from the Church? Do I entrust them daily to the care of the Blessed Mother and the Saints? Do I daily ask the Saints to help bring them back?
- Do I gossip? Have I shared information that should have been kept confidential?
- Is there anyone of whom I need to ask forgiveness? Is there anyone I need to forgive?
- Have I cheated or lied? Have I sought to protect my reputation at someone else's expense?
- Do I love the poor and do what I can to help, even if it means sacrifice on my part?
- Do I practice mercy and compassion, or do I hold people to an unreasonably high standard?
- Do I envy other people's lives or possessions? Have I taken what is not rightfully mine?
- Have I yielded to anger and spoken hurtful or damaging words? Am I praying for people I consider enemies?"?
- Have I engaged in sexual immorality? Have I treated others as objects and not persons valued by God?

# LENT 2022

Reflect. Repent. Restore.

Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Church

Hilltown, PA



## Parish Confessions

Thursday April 7<sup>th</sup>  
4:00 PM ~ 5:00 PM  
7:00 PM ~ 7:30 PM  
Church



## Stations of the Cross Fridays

March 4<sup>th</sup> ~ April 15<sup>th</sup>  
7:00 PM ~ Church

## Holy Week Schedule

### Palm Sunday of

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April 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup>  
Vigil 4:00 PM  
8:00 AM, 9:30 AM, 11:00 AM



### Holy Thursday Mass of the

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April 14<sup>th</sup>  
NO Morning Mass  
7:00 PM Church  
9:00 PM Night Prayer Church

## Holy Week Schedule

### Good Friday

April 15<sup>th</sup>  
NO Morning Mass  
9:00 AM Morning Prayer  
????????????????????  
7:00 PM Stations of the Cross  
with Reading of the Passion  
~ Church

### Holy Saturday

April 16<sup>th</sup>  
NO Morning Mass  
9:00 AM Morning Prayer  
11:00 AM Blessing of Food  
~ Church

### Easter Vigil

April 16<sup>th</sup>  
NO 4:00 PM Vigil Mass  
7:30 PM Church

### Easter Sunday

April 17<sup>th</sup>  
8:00 AM, 9:30 AM,  
& 11:00 AM Church



# Parish Pantry ~ Easter

Our Lenten journey has begun and we are quickly moving towards the glorious celebration of Easter. Our Parish Pantry would like to provide the families we serve with everything needed for a special Easter Dinner.

## *Our Planned Menu is as Follow:*

- Ham (all sizes)
- Boxed Scallop Patotes
- Canned Vegetables
- Canned Fruit
- Boxed Mac-N-Cheese
- Frozen Pepperidge Farms Cakes
- Canned Soup
- Non-Alcoholic Sparkling Cider

Donations of hams and frozen cakes can be placed in the freezer in the Usher's closet just off the Church Narthex; all other foods can be placed in the Parish Pantry bins in the Church Narthex. Donations of gift cards for local grocery stores are also most welcome and extremely helpful; these can be purchased and easily donated via the Parish Scrip Program - 1) Lorri Resuta at (215) 534-3092 or Email [olshscrip@gmail.com](mailto:olshscrip@gmail.com) 2) SCRIP Table in the Church Narthex or 3) through Electronic Parish Giving: "SCRIP-Parish Pantry."

Our Easter dinner distribution will take place on Saturday, April 9<sup>th</sup>; it would be appreciated if all Easter donations could be received by Sunday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>.

*Any Questions - Deacon Gary or Pat Schoenenberger*  
*(215) 230-8897 or [OLSPanishPantry@gmail.com](mailto:OLSPanishPantry@gmail.com)*

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ST. AGNES - SACRED HEART CYO

# EASTER EGG HUNT

A large, woven wicker basket filled with colorful Easter eggs (yellow, green, purple, blue, red, and pink) and green grass. A large blue bow is tied around the front of the basket. The basket is set against a bright blue sky with a sunburst effect. Two monarch butterflies are flying around the basket. A pair of white bunny ears is visible at the top right of the basket.

SAT APRIL 16TH

AGES 0 - 10

START  
10 AM

OUR LADY OF THE SACRED HEART FIELD  
(NEXT TO THE GYM BUILDING)

100 BROAD STREET • HILLTOWN, PA

(IN CASE OF RAIN, THE EASTER EGG HUNT WILL  
BE HELD IN THE GYMNASIUM)

BRING YOUR EASTER BASKETS, CAMERAS, AND RUNNING SHOES FOR A FUN FILL EVENT....