

Our Lady of Joy Parish
February 25, 2018

**Pray for all those
affected by
the school shooting
in Parkland**



**The LORD is close to the brokenhearted,
saves those whose spirit is crushed.**

– Psalm 34:19

Reflecting on God's Word

Two of today's readings take us up a mountain. Mountains are sacred places in the scriptures. Moses meets the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob on Mt. Sinai. Elijah has an experience of this same life-giving God on Mt. Horeb. Today Abraham goes up Mt. Moriah in obedience to God's command to "take your son Isaac, your only one, whom you love" (Genesis 22:2) and offer him there as a holocaust. It is hard to get past this reading today and focus only on the story of the Transfiguration. This story of God testing Abraham to see if Abraham will obey is a story of great anguish. "See" is an important word here: Moriah means "the place of seeing." Abraham responds to Isaac's question about a victim, saying God will provide, a word rooted in the Latin word for seeing. God will see to it that there is a victim, just as God will see that Abraham is obedient in all things. Seeing also takes place on Mt. Tabor. Peter, James, and John see Jesus in glory, his clothes dazzlingly white; they see him speaking with Moses and Elijah, representing the law and the prophets; and they see a cloud overshadowing them, and hear a voice calling for their obedience: "This is my beloved Son. Listen to him" (Mark 9:7). With them, we are invited to see Jesus as the beloved Son whom the Father "did not spare . . . but handed over for us all," as Paul reminds us (Romans 8:32). The mystery of the Cross and Resurrection is an invitation to see God's love for all God's beloved children and trust in it.

THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH February 26 - March 4, 2018

MONDAY

- Weekday Mass - 8:30am
- CCD - 4:30pm
- CCD - 6:30pm
- RCIA - 7pm
- Holy Name - 7:30pm

TUESDAY

- Weekday Mass - 8:30am
- Prayer Shawl - 9am
- CCD - 4:30pm
- CCD - 6:30pm
- Lectio Divina - 7pm

WEDNESDAY

- Weekday Mass - 8:30am
- Youth Chorale - 6pm
- Chorale - 7pm

THURSDAY

- Weekday Mass - 12 Noon
- Holy Hour - 12:30pm
- Adoration & Divine Mercy - 3pm
- Knights of Columbus - 7pm
- Contemporary Music Ensemble - 7:30pm

FRIDAY

- Weekday Mass - 8:30am
- Fish Fry - 4pm
- Stations of the Cross - 7pm

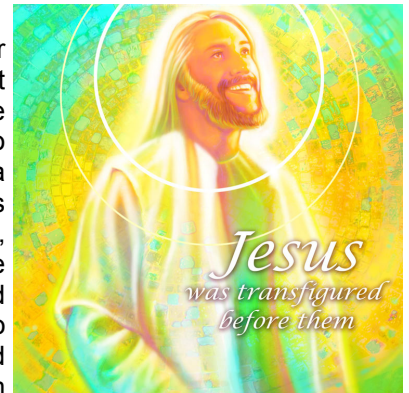
SATURDAY

- Sacrament of Penance - 5pm - 5:30pm
- Vigil Mass - 6pm
- F.I.R.E. Night - 6pm

Continued on Page Three

From the Pastor

On this 2nd Sunday of Lent we hear in our first reading from the Book of Genesis about Abraham. God put Abraham to the test. He told Abraham to take his only son Isaac to offer him up to the Lord as a sacrifice, a holocaust (a burnt offering). Abraham was obedient to the Father, so He took Isaac, and even had bound him, and even had the wood at the altar of sacrifice, but God called out at the last moment to not do any harm to the boy. God in turn told Abraham that God would make the descendants of Abraham as numerous as the stars of the sky and the sands of the seashore, and they would find blessings from the Lord. In the Letter to the Romans, St. Paul says 'IF GOD IS FOR US, WHO CAN BE AGAINST US?' And our Gospel is the story of the Transfiguration of the Lord, as He took Peter, James, and John up the mountain and was transfigured, changed in appearance to be a dazzling light and there appeared 2 Old Testament figures, Moses and Elijah. As with the story of Abraham when God the Father spoke from Heaven to Abraham, now God the Father spoke to those gathered and said 'THIS IS MY BELOVED SON, LISTEN TO HIM'. These stories all tell us that God is for us, and He is there to show His power and love for us. As we continue through Lent, we are invited to be 'transfigured', changed to be more in the likeness of the Lord, dazzling in our holiness and purity, as we serve the Lord and each other.



Another weekly happening in the parish is with the Spanish Community. We have a travelling OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE statue which up to now only those in the Spanish Community could get at the 12 noon mass every Sunday, if you have signed up to be next on the list. A person takes the statue home and with their family prays the rosary and any other prayers daily while having the statue of Our Lady. Now anyone else who would want to take the statue and pray with it may sign up by telling me at mass and having your name and phone number on a paper and I will contact the people in charge of the statue. There will be a waiting period, but they will call and tell you the date. God bless you. Fr. Al Z+

PARISH NEWS

Pre-Baptism Class

A class is required for any new parent(s) wishing to have their baby baptized at Our Lady of Joy Parish. The class will be offered at 7:00pm in the Father Marchukonis Hall on March 7, 2018. Call 412-795-3388 to register.

PARISH NEWS

Pre-Marriage Class

Our next weekend for our Marriage Preparation Program will be May 4 & 5, 2018. Couples must attend both the Friday evening session from 7pm until 10:15pm and the Saturday morning session from 9am until 1pm to complete the diocesan requirements for marriage instruction. Call 412-795-3388 to register.

Stations of the Cross

Stations of the Cross will be at 7pm on the following Fridays of Lent: March 2, 9, & 30

An Evening of Reflection with Music

The entire parish community is invited to "An Evening of Reflection" on Friday, March 16 from 7pm to 8pm. Through contemporary music and readings, this program reflects on Christ's life from Palm Sunday through Good Friday.

The Light is on for you

(Confessions)

Wednesday, March 21 from 6pm to 9pm

Living Stations of the Cross presented by the Youth of our Parish

Friday, March 23 at 7:30pm.

Rosary

The Holy Name Society will pray the Rosary every Monday evening at 7pm at Our Lady of Joy Church throughout Lent and Easter Monday.

Penance Services

Our Lady of Joy - March 20 @ 7pm

St. Bernadette - March 21 @ 7pm

North American Martyrs - March 26 @ 7pm

St. John the Baptist - March 27 @ 7pm

Living Stations of the Cross

Students grades four and up are invited to take part in the Living Stations which will be held Friday, March 23 at 7:30. Any student wishing to be a part of the living stations should contact the Religious Education Office at 412-795-4389. We are hoping for at least 30 students participating to fill all the parts. Students should be committed to practicing Sundays 1pm until 3:30pm on February 25, March 4, and dress rehearsal Thursday, March 15 Time TBD and if needed, Thursday, March 22. The actual Living Stations will be Friday, March 23 at 7:30pm. Students are to report at 6:00pm for a pizza dinner and dress in room 5 & 6 in the hall. Parents please encourage your children to participate. Everyone is welcome to watch our CCD students participate in this Lenten Living Stations. Come early for the Fish Fry and stay for the Living Stations.

Serving Our Seniors Ministry Seminar

Allegheny County Office of Treasurer - Tuesday, March 13 @ 1pm

A representative from the office of John K. Weinstein, Treasurer, will provide information on the Homestead Act, the Senior tax relief program, other tax credits, tax abatement and exemptions. They will also be available to answer any questions related to services provided by their office. Although not necessary to RSVP it does help with planning Call Kathy at 412-310-1490 or email kakb5101@gmail.com



THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

(Continued From Page Two)

SUNDAY

Third Sunday of Lent

- Sunday Masses - 8:30am, 10am and 12 Noon
- Living Stations of the Cross Practice - 1pm

Our Lady of Joy SOS Ministry

1. Faith in Action (FIA)

Patricia Kline - 412-468-0296

FIA Office - 724-327-3353

2. Senior and Caregiver Services

Carl Vitalbo - 412-798-9147

Barb Manganello - 412-795-9753

Barb Kelly - 724-327-3996

3. Social Services

Beth Harkay - 724-327-1178

4. Seminar/Information Sessions

Kathy Ballina - 412-795-4717

5. Legal Information Services

John Fullen - 724-327-6014

Today's Readings

First Reading — The sacrifice of Abraham, our father in faith (Genesis 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18).

Psalm — I walk before the Lord, in the land of the living (Psalm 116).

Second Reading — God did not spare his own Son (Romans 8:31b-34).

Gospel — This is my beloved Son (Mark 9:2-10).

Readings for the Week

Monday: Dn 9:4b-10; Ps 79:8, 9, 11, 13; Lk 6:36-38

Tuesday: Is 1:10, 16-20; Ps 50:8-9, 16bc-17, 21, 23; Mt 23:1-12

Wednesday: Jer 18:18-20; Ps 31:5-6, 14-16; Mt 20:17-28

Thursday: Jer 17:5-10; Ps 1:1-4, 6; Lk 16:19-31

Friday: Gn 37:3-4, 12-13a; 17b-28a; Ps 105:16-21; Mt 21:33-43, 45-46

Saturday: Mi 7:14-15, 18-20; Ps 103:1-4, 9-12; Lk 15:1-3, 11-32

Sunday: Ex 20:1-17 [1-3, 7-8, 12-17]; Ps 19:8-11; 1 Cor 1:22-25; Jn 2:13-25

**This Week's
Priest's Private Mass Intentions**

Monday - February 26

8:30 am Charlie Giunta
(Wife)

Tuesday - February 27

8:30 am Ruth Tomasits
(Emmy Lou & Frank Caylor)

Wednesday - February 28

8:30 am Alvin Matthews
(Wife, Dottie)

Thursday - March 1

12 Noon Jay Lavander
(Linda & Jim Briski)

Friday - March 2

8:30 am Amy Kohler
(Carole Schafer)

Saturday - March 3

6:00 pm Ray Balukin
(Patty & Greg Balukin)

Sunday - March 4

8:30 am Living Intention of Lisa &
Vince Cheripka

10:00 am Mario Palladino
(Patty & Tom Klocko)

12 Noon For all the People of the
Parish

In Memoriam

In your charity please pray for the
repose of the soul of **Judith Rock-
well**, mother of Cathy Siko. May her
soul and the souls of all the faithfully
departed rest in peace. Amen.

Sanctuary Candle

Our Sanctuary Candle burns In Honor
of the Blessed Sacrament and In Lov-
ing Memory of **Jaime Vick Moran**.
Requested by the Vick Family

**Last Week's
Sunday Collection
\$ 8,600.67**

PARISH NEWS



Lenten Art and Environment

Perhaps you have noticed the desert scene in front of the altar. God leads every believer into the desert at one time or another.

Moses led the Israelites for 40 years in the desert before getting to the Promised Land. David spent time in the desert hiding out from Saul before God made him king. And the Spirit drove Jesus into the desert after his baptism for 40 days.

Lots of circumstances can be "deserts." A prolonged sickness can be a desert. Moving to a new place or joining a new church where you don't know anyone can be one. Being stuck in a miserable or boring job instead of the fulfilling career you had hoped for can be a desert. A rebellious child or the death of a loved one can be a desert.

When we're in the desert, it can feel like God's not doing anything. Or he's set us aside. But God is always at work. He uses desert experiences in many ways. The deserts humble us. They cause us to pause and reflect on the things that are really important. Deserts reveal what is in our hearts. The desert can be seen as a place where we can go to meet God, to find favor with Him, to experience an inward pilgrimage, to experience God's protection.

The desert is a place where miracles occur. Flowers suddenly bloom when the occasional rains fall. The desert of Lent is a place of renewal. Perhaps you can reflect on these things as you focus on the desert before you on the altar and the deserts in your life.

The Holy Name Society

The Holy Name Society collects non-perishable food for the Plum Food Bank. Please leave your donations in the church vestibule and they will be gathered and taken to the Plum Food Bank every weekend. Thank you for your generosity!

The Holy Name Society will have its next scheduled meeting on Sunday March 11 in room 2 of Father Marchukonis Hall following the noon Mass. Any catholic man or woman over the age of 18 is welcome to attend. Hope to see you there.

10th Annual Chimbote Spaghetti Dinner

Once again we are planning our annual Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser for the poor of our parish and the poor of Chimbote, Peru on March 11 from 4pm to 7pm. This year a new maternity hospital has been opened. The profits from the dinner and gift baskets will benefit the Maternidad de Maria Maternity Hospital. Please plan on attending on March 11. Bring your neighbors and friends for a delicious meal and good fellowship. Mark this important date on your calendar and join in the sharing of a delicious meal and good work of Our Lady of Joy.



How can I help?

- *Make a tax-deductible contribution
- *Support, sponsor, and attend our special fundraiser
- *Pray for those who serve through our mission in Chimbote
- \$ 50.00- Vaccinate 50 children
- \$130.00- Provide home visits for 10
- \$250.00- Sponsor 100 well baby checkups for a year

"Whoever welcomes one of these little children in my name welcomes me; and whoever welcomes me does not welcome me but the One who sent me." — Mark 9:37

PARISH NEWS

FRIDAY NIGHT FISH FRY

Knights of Columbus Fish Fry & Bake

Every Friday during Lent including Good Friday from 4pm - 7pm in the Father Marchukonis Hall.

Menu

- Fried or Baked Fish Sandwich - \$7
- Grilled Cheese Sandwich - \$3
- Haluski - \$3
- Mac and Cheese - \$1
- Cole Slaw - \$1
- French Fries - \$1
- Coke - \$1
- Diet Coke - \$1
- Sprite - \$1
- Bottled Water - \$1
- Coffee - \$1



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION / CCD NEWS

First Reconciliation/Second Grade

Those who attend Mondays will celebrate First Reconciliation on **Monday, March 5** at 4:30pm. Those who attend Tuesday will celebrate First Reconciliation on **Tuesday, February 27** at 4:30pm.

The sacrament will be celebrated as a Penance Service. We will gather in the Father Marchukonis Hall. Afterward all are invited into the Father Marchukonis Hall for a Reception. Please pray for all our Second Graders.

Confirmation Retreat

The Confirmation Retreat will be held March 18 beginning at 1:00pm. The students are encouraged to attend 12:00 Noon Mass. Confirmation is not a graduation but a beginning, learning to live the Catholic faith in our daily lives. Come and learn how to begin this magnificent journey as an adult Catholic. The students will learn how to use the wonderful tools the Catholic faith has to offer to make a joyful journey through-out their entire lives. The parents are invited and encouraged to attend the closing which includes Adoration and Benediction in the church as our Holy Father Pope Francis encourages all Catholics to join in this prayerful time.

Prayer: For young people preparing for Confirmation, that they may grow in faith and be enabled to see the world with the eyes of faith.

Parish Blessing: God, our loving Father, these young peo-

ple come before you open to receiving the fullness of the Gifts of your Spirit. Send your gifts in abundance that they may be instrumental in realizing the fullness of your Kingdom. We ask this blessing through Christ our Lord.

OTHER NEWS

Serra Catholic High School

Serra Catholic's Placement Test for incoming freshmen will be held on **Saturday, March 3rd from 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon**. Please contact Mrs. Lyons at [412-751-2020](tel:412-751-2020) to register.

Serra Catholic Meet Our Students Evening

Thursday, March 8 from 7pm - 9pm
Incoming Freshmen, spend time with current students and find your place in our clubs, activities, and sports. Parents, attend workshops and find answers to all of your questions about our Serra Catholic community!
Please contact Mrs. Lyons at [412-751-2020](tel:412-751-2020) for more information.

College Discernment Night

Are you wondering what to do with your life? Do you think that God might be calling you in a unique way? Come learn how to better hear His voice at the College Discernment Night, Monday, March 19 from 5:45 pm - 8:30 pm at St. Paul Seminary. Father Mike Ackerman will speak on discernment, and the night will include prayer, dinner with the seminarians, and fellowship. All college and post-college men welcome. To register, email tullivan@diopitt.org by March 12.

Divorced, Widowed, or Separated?

The loss of a spouse through separation, divorce, or death is a traumatic experience. The Beginning Experience weekend is intended to help widowed, divorced, or separated people who would like to pass through the grief and begin to move forward with their lives. Come to a safe place. The next retreat weekend will be March 9-11, 2018 at the Martina Spiritual Renewal Center, 5244 Clarwin Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15229 which is located in West View/Ross Township. Payment arrangements and possible financial assistance are available. For more information, visit our website www.BeginningExperiencePittsburgh.com or make a confidential call to Mary at 412-523-2405 or Rob at 412-584-5575.

An Uplifting Evening of Song, Prayer and Praise

Join us for a concert featuring David Haas and Lori True on Saturday March 3rd at St Benedict the Abbot, 120 Abington Drive McMurray, PA 15317-3398: (724) 941-9406. The Concert will begin at 7pm. Free admission- Reservations requested. Please RSVP at www.sbapeters.org. news and upcoming events- David Haas and Lori True Concert. A love offering will be collected.

Diocese of Pittsburgh Abuse Hotline
1-888-808-1235