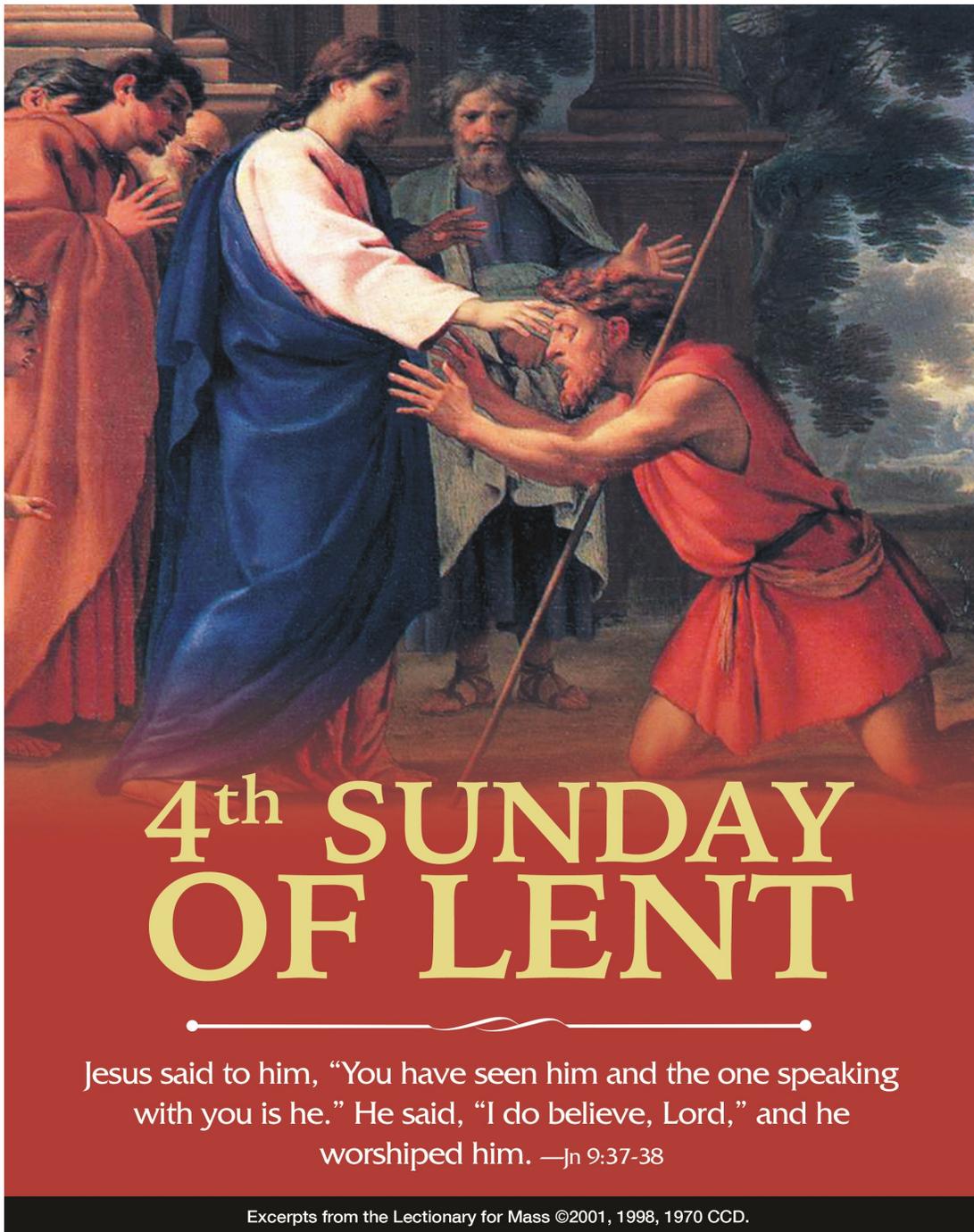


ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH



# 4<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY OF LENT

Jesus said to him, "You have seen him and the one speaking with you is he." He said, "I do believe, Lord," and he worshiped him. —Jn 9:37-38

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

PARISH OFFICE

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PRESBYTERY

407 Tioga St., Johnstown, PA 15905  
814-535-7646  
By appointment

ST MICHAEL CATHOLIC CHURCH

180 Gilbert St., Johnstown, PA 15906  
DIVINE MERCY SCHOOL—WEST  
Phone: 814 539-5315

## FATHER MARK'S NOTES

Brothers & Sisters,

With the outbreak of the Covid-19 virus, we are definitely in uncharted territory. As of Tuesday, March 17, we will not be allowed to celebrate Holy Mass either on weekdays or on Sundays. Now, of course, you can watch Mass on TV, and I'm sure there will be many channels where that is possible. I think the Bishop will be live streaming Mass this Sunday from his Proclaim studio in Altoona. However, I believe there is much more we personally can do that will be of great benefit to our spiritual well being. Not only to help you through the crisis but also to help us all to grow deeper in our relationship with Jesus. Watching something on TV is ok, but watching TV makes us mostly passive and primarily an observer.

So, what can you do that would be more engaging and a much deeper experience of REAL prayer? Maybe this is a time when God is inviting you to finally begin to truly pray. Or, if you are already praying, to deepen your prayer. First, if you can, create a sacred space in your home where you and your family can go to pray. A place where you can pray alone at times, and at other times pray together as a family. Use candles, icons, sacred pictures, and images that mean a lot to you that will create a sacred environment. You know, like Church!!

Secondly, make sure you have a good readable Bible at home. The New American is best. If you have the Douay Rheims version, call us, and we will give you a better and a more modern translation. Also, do you have a Rosary? You may like to pray with the Rosary. If you do not have a rosary, we can give you a Rosary and a little instruction book to help you pray with a Rosary.

If you have all that, you are ready to go. Go to your sacred space, light your candle, and meet the Living God face to face!! Our website has a link under "Stay and Pray at Home" that will instruct you on how to "Pray" with your Bible. You should not just read it but really pray with your Bible; it's a method called Lectio Divina. To begin, use the Gospel for daily Mass for your time of "Lectio." You can find the Scripture reading on the "Stay at Home and Pray" link on our website. Begin with maybe 10 to 15 minutes and try to build your prayer to about 20 minutes a day. If you're more comfortable praying the Rosary, make sure that with Mary, you are not just saying a bunch of rapid-fire Hail Mary's, but truly meditating on the mysteries with Her. You should know the Biblical text that corresponds with each Mystery. If you are not familiar with the Biblical text, look it up in your Bible. This will not be wasted time. Again, it doesn't matter if you finish the Rosary but begin by praying your Rosary for 10 to 15 minutes and try to build your prayer time to 20 minutes. As with all prayer, don't worry about getting it right. The essentials of prayer are taking the time and being "unprotected/vulnerable before God." If you do that – you are praying!!!

Given our "social distancing" and our mandatory isolation, we can't just sit around watching TV all day long. Why waste this precious sacred time offered to us. Spend more time with family and more time praying. This is a time when our schedules aren't so busy (we can't say we're too busy anymore!!) We don't have any more excuses as to why we aren't trying to pray.

We encourage you to visit our website daily so we can all stay connected to one another. I realize it's one step removed from actual human contact, but in these challenging times, thank God for the internet. We will give you more instruction on prayer as we go. Maybe we can set something up where you can ask us questions about the Bible, prayer, and the spiritual life. We can give you the answers online. Hey, this could actually be fun!! So check in with us every day. Stay connected! More to come. We will get through this. Stay safe and do no harm!!! God Bless you, f.mark

## SMALL GROUP/ARISE



### Session 4 - Children of Light

Last week, we were called to the challenge of *Building Anew* the Church of Jesus Christ. This week we are reminded that through our Baptism we are called “children of light.” What does this mean, and how are we living this gift from God?

- Paul tells us that “once you were in darkness and now in the Lord, you are light.” How are you living as children of the light so that Christ will shine on you?
- We are made new in Baptism and renewed through Reconciliation. This is a gift to us, but we are called to invite others to experience this gift. This light of Christ should be visible to others and should attract them to the Church. How are you living this obligation?
- Through the Sacrament of Reconciliation, God is working in our lives. Are we committed to a clear and sincere commitment to live anew, celebrating that we are now the light of the Lord?

During this season of Lent, let’s all find time to seek out Reconciliation so that we can become the Lord’s light in our world. Share your thoughts with those around you. Have a great week, and be safe.

## MEAL TRAIN CHUGGING ALONG

**Please check our website for some disclaimers!**

Our new **Meal Train Ministry** is chugging right along. Since pulling out of the station in mid-February, we have provided 5 families with 32 meals! These meals were delivered to welcome new babies and help heal during post-surgery recovery. Thank you to the 23 folks signed up thus far to help deliver meals! Your generosity has filled many hearts with love and many tummies with delicious meals!

**If you are interested in helping to deliver meals**, go to the OMOS website and go to the Care & Support link under the Explore tab to be placed in the database. You will be emailed when a meal train is set-up online and you may choose dates & meals to your convenience.

**Know someone who could use a meal** due to a prolonged illness, surgery, deployment, or new baby? Visit our website and go to the Care & Support link under the Explore tab. Here you will find information on how to approach someone who you think could use meals delivered to them and what kind of information is needed to begin a meal train. Answer the basic questions on our online form so that we may set-up a meal train that is convenient and easy for the person to receive.

If you have any questions, contact Karen Hoffman at 255-7488 or km1227@hotmail.com.

## HIGH SCHOOL

**Mission Trip: July 12—17, 2020 or August 2—7, 2020.**

**Service:** This life-changing experience provides opportunities for hands on service at a variety of service sites to serve a variety of populations including children, the elderly, individuals with disabilities, and the homeless.

**Reflection:** Prayer and reflection are a vital part of this experience. Students will be allowed to reflect inwardly how each person, service, or educational activity impacts them.

**Please register online today** [omostoday.com/high-school-youth-ministry/](http://omostoday.com/high-school-youth-ministry/)

Contact Matt DiFrancesco (mjdifran@gmail.com or Ali Koch (akoch@dioceseaj.org) with any questions.

## CENTENNIAL NEWS



Due to the restrictions on social gatherings, the upcoming centennial activities will be postponed until further notice. We will reignite our centennial plans when we are cleared to do so.

**Keep collecting your spare change** and hopefully, we will be able to gather again soon to celebrate Mass. Stay safe!

## ASSISTANCE MINISTRY

At OMOS, the Assistance Ministry hears and answers the pleas of the poor, elderly, sick, and the working poor. Working with you, the Assistance Ministry serves Jesus in the calls of those in need. **Thank you for your monthly donations by envelope, collection basket, and especially online.** You are answering these calls with your mercy and love.

**Assistance Ministry envelopes may be dropped outside the Parish Office in the drop-box, mailed, or you may donate online.**

Online giving is easy. Go to our parish website [omostoday.com](http://omostoday.com), under the “Give” tab, click on the “online giving” button. Click on the “open online giving portal” and complete the requested information.

## MASS INTENTIONS

### Saturday, March 21, 2020

Robert Sober (Jim & Peg Luksik) &  
Patricia Puchko (Mike & Luann Sowko)  
(Private Mass)

### Sunday, March 22, 2020—4th Sunday of Lent

Catherine A. Buchan-Haebich (Jim & Mary Garrity) &  
Living and Deceased Members of Barbin Family (Wanna "B's")  
(Private Mass)

### Monday, March 23, 2020

Ed Stankiewicz (Pattie & Kathy)  
(Private Mass)

### Tuesday, March 24, 2020

Special Intention (Private Mass)

### Wednesday, March 25, 2020

Deceased Members of Stringent & McAneny Families  
(Private Mass)

### Thursday, March 26, 2020

Frederick Leitenberger (Family)  
(Private Mass)

### Friday, March 27, 2020

Matilda (M/M Steve & Anita Maschak)  
(Private Mass)

### Saturday, March 28, 2020—Vigil

Deceased Members of Julius Rosage Family (Bill Rosage) & John Rizzuto (-)  
(Private Mass)

### Sunday, March 29, 2020—5th Sunday of Lent

Thomas Hiravi (Diane & Patty Safko) & Frances Dorian (Jim & Peg Luksik)  
(Private Mass)

**Fr. Mark will be celebrating a private Mass each day and will include the Mass intentions in his prayers.**

**Visit our website [omostoday.com](http://omostoday.com) for staff directory, and updated information.**

## OMOS WEBSITE

We have a page on our website devoted to *The latest updates of schedules and protocol* concerning the Coronavirus.

Find this page by clicking on the blue banner on our home page labeled: "[Click here for updated schedules and protocol of Our Mother of Sorrows Church.](#)" Here, you will find the updates on the Church's schedules. Please check this page frequently as updates come forward.

## WEEKLY READINGS

Monday: Is 65:17-21/Ps 30:2 and 4, 5-6, 11-12a and 13b [2a]/Jn 4:43-54

Tuesday: Ez 47:1-9, 12/Ps 46: 2-3, 5-6, 8-9/Jn 5:1-16

Wednesday: Is 7:10-14; 8:10/Ps 40:7-8a, 8b-9, 10, 11 [8a and 9a]/Heb 10:4-10/Lk 1:26-38

Thursday: Ex 32:7-14/Ps 106:19-20, 21-22, 23 [4a]/Jn 5:31-47

Friday: Wis 2:1a, 12-22/Ps 34:17-18, 19-20, 21 and 23 [19a]/Jn 7:1-2, 10, 25-30

Saturday: Jer 11:18-20/Ps 7:2-3, 9bc-10, 11-12 [2a]/Jn 7:40-53

Next Sunday: Ez 37:12-14/Ps 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8 [7]/Rom 8:8-11/Jn 11:1-45 or 11:3-7, 17, 20-27, 33b-45

## ONLINE GIVING

### Easy, Convenient, Safe

Online giving is a safe and convenient way to offer your contributions. Join the 150 families at OMOS that give online and do not worry about remembering their envelopes.

Go to our website [omostoday.com](http://omostoday.com), under "Give" click on "online giving", click on "open online giving portal" and complete registration information. You can make your contributions weekly, bi-weekly, or monthly. Contributions may be taken out of your bank account or put on a credit card.

## ST. MICHAEL'S NEWS

Easter Flower order forms will be at each door. Order forms are due by March 28. Please purchase your flowers and help create our beautiful "Spring Garden" for the Easter Season.

Food collection baskets are located at each door. Please donate to help the needy in our area. Food will be donated to St. Vincent de Paul.

## SUNDAY COLLECTION

### March 15, 2020

Envelopes .....	\$ 6,638
Loose .....	790
Online (71).....	3,956
Total.....	\$11,384

**OMOS Church will be open each day from 6 am—7pm for private prayer.**

St. Michael's Church will be open daily from 8 am—7 pm to allow for private prayer.