Rite of Election Welcomes New Members Preparing to Enter Church

By Rachel Bryson, M.S.
_The Catholic Witness_

Lent is a time of repentance, preparation and renewal leading up to Easter. For more than 90 men, women and children in the Diocese of Harrisburg, it is also their last phase of preparation before they enter into full communion with the Church at the Easter Vigil.

On Sunday, March 1 at St. Patrick Cathedral in Harrisburg, these catechumens were presented to Bishop Ronald Gainer during the Rite of Election. Annually celebrated throughout the Church on the first Sunday of Lent, those who will receive the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Holy Eucharist at the Easter Vigil have their names written into the Book of the Elect during this ceremony.

These catechumens are joined by their sponsors, catechists and godparents as a sign of support and preparedness.

The Rite of Election this year was extra special for Tom Lauer. A member of St. John the Baptist Parish in New Freedom, Lauer’s daughter, Erin Bacani, was one of the elect who will join the Church at the Easter Vigil.

“It’s very exciting. We’ve been waiting a long time for this, for Erin to be baptized. It was very exciting when Erin said ‘I think I’m being called to be baptized, confirmed and receive first Holy Communion.’ I asked if she wanted to join RCIA in September and she said yes,” said Lauer.

“We’re bringing people into the Church, today we have 96 that are coming in. These are people that are going to be baptized at the Easter Vigil and they are going to start their journey back to the Father through his Son, which is a beautiful journey and it doesn’t start until Baptism. And so to be there every year, I see the eyes and the faces of the catechumens coming up and it’s just a thrill,” said Lauer.

Eric Hole, who attends Holy Infant Parish in Manchester, will also be entering the Church at the Easter Vigil.

“I’m elated,” Hole said after the ceremony. “It’s been a long time coming.”

Hole first began his journey nearly nine years ago when he first started dating his wife.

“Her family was heavily involved with the Church and I always got invited to things at the Church, and they always made me feel at home. No one ever pushed you but they made you feel welcome all the time,” said Hole.

While he enjoyed the welcome feeling, Hole wanted something more.

“I wanted to have a closer connection to God. My father-in-law and mother-in-law help teach adult education. My wife had said her dad was teaching RCIA and was I interested. I said I was,” said Hole.

“It was just a nice nudge from my
Inaugural Youth Conference Promises a Focus on Balance and Faith

By Jen Reed

The Catholic Witness

A first-of-its kind youth conference, envisioned by members of the Diocesan Youth Council, aims to address ways that young people can find balance between life, faith, family and school.

The conference is set for March 15 from 12:30-5 p.m. at Bishop McDevitt High School in Harrisburg. It will feature speakers Father Jonathan Sawicki, Diocesan Vocations Director; and Kelsi Chuprina, Assistant Campus Minister at Bucknell University. Adoration, praise and worship, food and a social with a DJ will also be part of the experience.

The event is open to youth in grades 8-12. Cost is $20, and includes food and a t-shirt.

The idea for the youth conference originated with the Diocesan Youth Council, made up of a group of young people from parishes and Catholic high schools who gather throughout the year to plan youth events and share messages and service opportunities with their peers. The DYC is under the auspices of the Diocesan Office for Youth and Young Adult Ministry.

“Our vision for this year was to reintroduce the Council to the Diocese of Harrisburg by taking on a more active role within the community,” said DYC member Allison Schaedler. “We decided that holding a Diocesan-wide event for the youth of our Diocese would be a great way to bring the youth of the Diocese together, as well as get the word out about the DYC and our goal to have a more active role in the Diocese. Council members “felt compelled to make a difference in the lives of Catholic youth” and so envisioned the conference as “a great way to impact a lot of youth and encourage the connection between faith and high school schedules,” said DYC member Sarah Mahoney.

“Young Protection Program

To report suspected abuse of a minor, call the toll free PA Child Abuse Hotline:
1-800-932-0313

To report suspected abuse of a minor by a church official, employee or volunteer, also please call the Diocese of Harrisburg Youth Protection Hotline:
1-800-626-1608 or email:
ReportAbuse@hbgdiocese.org

Para reportar la sospecha del abuso de un menor, llame al número de teléfono gratuito Línea de Ayuda Abuso del Niño Pennsylvania:
1-800-932-0313

Para reportar la sospecha del abuso de un menor a manos de un oficial, empleado o voluntario de la iglesia, también llame al número de teléfono gratuito de ayuda diocesana:
1-800-626-1608 o envíe correo electrónico:
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The Catholic Witness, 4800 Union Deposit Road, Harrisburg, PA 17111-3710. Phone: 717-657-4804 FAX: 717-657-7673 witness@hbgdiocese.org

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By Sister Geralyn Schmidt, SCC

**Special to The Witness**

I know that a good story is often worth repeating.

Sometime ago, I noticed a young family sitting near me during Sunday Mass. There was a girl of about five or six years old, a dad who towered over me (he was close to seven feet tall) and a very “with child” mom who struggled to get up out of the pew. As I looked at her, I thought she had to be carrying more than one baby. I smiled as I watched the father hold his wife with his other arm.

Several weeks later, I smiled as this family sat in front of me. Dad was carrying his newborn sons! He had each of them tucked in his arms. They were wearing bright red shirts with their names on them, and were fast asleep. During Mass, baby Joseph whimpered once or twice. His sister was asleep. During Mass, baby Joseph was wearing bright red shirts with their names tucked in his arms. They were at a time of great reorganization — a time of uncertainty!


Sound familiar? At times like this, let us keep the Memorare to St. Joseph in mind. It reads:

*Remember, O most pure spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary, my great protector, Saint Joseph that no one ever had recourse to your protection, or implored your aid without obtaining relief. Confiding therefore in your goodness, I come before you. Do not turn down my petitions, foster father of the Redeemer, but graciously receive them. Amen.*

Remember, he has us tucked in his arms — the arms that held the baby Jesus. It’s going to be ok!

(Sister Geralyn Schmidt is the Wide Area Network Coordinator at the Diocese of Harrisburg and the Director of Formation for Wives in the Diocesan Program. An educator for 30 years, she is responsible for Professional Development Programs for every age learner. Through her presentations, she challenges her audiences to be the individual God has called them to be.)

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**St. Joseph, Patron of the Universal Church**

The Church observes the Solemnity of St. Joseph on March 19. Husband of the Virgin Mary and earthly father of Jesus, St. Joseph was declared patron of the Universal Church 100 years ago by Pope Pius IX. In difficult and challenging times, we turn to St. Joseph to seek his intercession.
During his homily, Bishop Gainer told the catechumens gathered that on the testimony of their parish clergy, catechists and godparents, the Church acknowledges their readiness and chooses them today to become members of the Elect.

“In celebrating this Rite of Election of Catechumens, the Church rejoices in all of you that have been called and chosen by Christ to enter into the life of God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit through the Easter Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Holy Eucharist,” said Bishop Gainer.

“Through this Rite of Election and the enrolment of names, the period of formation of your minds as catechumens concludes and you are declared today to be members of the Elect.”

Bishop Gainer continued that during the 40 days of Lent, the elect and indeed all Catholic Christians are called to use this time to reorient our lives.

“Lent is a conversion for us all and it affords each of us who are already baptized a second baptism, the early Church’s name for the sacrament of reconciliation or confession, in order to experience more profoundly the mystery of God’s mercy and love,” said Bishop Gainer.

He added the Gospel reading from Matthew, recounting Jesus’ temptations by Satan in the desert, highlights why the Church needs the season of Lent and is a fitting reading for the Rite of Election.

“Just as God’s people were led through the waters of the Red Sea in the Exodus and then sojourned 40 years in the wilderness, so Jesus went into the water of the Jordan at his baptism, and immediately then spent 40 days in prayer and fasting in the desert wilderness,” said Bishop Gainer. “At his baptism, the sinless Jesus elects to take his place among us sinners. In the desert, He’s led by the Spirit to experience what every one of us must experience; the trials, the risks, the temptations of life here on earth. The Holy Spirit leads Jesus to go to the very depths of Himself, to determine if He would choose to be the suffering savior of sinners. “This is why we the Church need this season of Lent,” continued Bishop Gainer. “Those preparing for Baptism, Confirmation and first Communion, those already baptized and preparing to enter into full communion with the Catholic Church, and those of us who already enjoy the fullness of communion in the Church; this is the time to allow Christ’s ‘no’ to Satan and His unconditional loving ‘yes’ to the Father to resound in new and more complete ways as we dare to go down into the depths of ourselves, with the Holy Spirit leading and strengthening us during these 40 days of Lent.”

The 96 elect will fully enter the Church during the Easter Vigil on April 11.
Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament Welcomes Bishop for Pastoral Visit

By Jen Reed
The Catholic Witness

The multi-cultural community of Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament Parish in Harrisburg joyfully welcomed Bishop Ronald Gainer for a pastoral visit on March 1, as he celebrated Sunday Mass for the congregation.

Located in Midtown Harrisburg, near the Governor’s Residence, the parish began as a mission of nearby St. Patrick’s in 1900. Its current church, built in 1929, is known for its breathtaking Gothic architecture, and its steeple is a highlight of the area’s skyline.

Our Lady’s is home to a multi-cultural worshiping community, including a vibrant Vietnamese community that attends Mass in their native language and holds food sales on the first Sunday of each month.

“The people here are active. We have a good community of young people, who are strong in the faith,” said Father Bernard Wamayose, AJ, pastor. “They give us great energy and a vision for the Church.”

The parish is also known in the community for its food pantry, which distributes food weekly, offering enough items to feed a household for three days.

“Our parishioners volunteer to help serve the pantry, and give to help support it,” said Father Wamayose. “The number of people served is rising, especially as other food banks close. Our presence with the pantry here sends a good message to the community.”

In recent months, the parish has undertaken renovation efforts, including roofing and electrical repairs in the church and rectory.

“We are looking at ways to continue to help preserve the church, because it is old and historic,” Father Wamayose said. “We are happy that the church is loved by its people, and continues for the future.”

Altar servers Natalie Reyes and Tiffany Nguyen join in the Entrance Procession.

Parishioners receive a blessing from the bishop during Communion.
Parishes Concoct Assortment of Tasty Treats in Lenten Traditions

By Jen Reed and Rachel Bryson, M.S.
*The Catholic Witness*

The sugary-sweet aroma is unmistakable around parish kitchens and social halls this time of year. From warm and sticky fastnachts to luscious chocolate eggs, the sugary treats are staples in several parish communities, drawing thousands of customers to the longstanding saccharine traditions.

A “foodie” road trip ahead of Shrove Tuesday served up a glimpse of the confectionary customs and the volunteers that make the Lenten treats possible at several parishes in the Diocese.

96 Years of Fastnachts

Jim Knapp fondly remembers the “Fat Tuesday” treats that he and his classmates received at Holy Trinity School in Columbia several decades ago.

“Each student would get one fastnacht from the parish sale. They only made plain ones, and they were fried in lard, so they tasted better back then,” he said.

Knapp, who retired in 2001, is now in charge of the fryers and glazers who, as part of a group of 150 volunteers, continue the 96-year tradition of the homemade fastnacht sale at Holy Trinity Parish.

“Everybody knows this is the place to come for fastnachts!” Knapp said during a rare downtime on the first day of the sale. “Our reputation is very good. We have a good product, and that brings people in from every faith. And, they come back every year.”

The fastnacht sale at Holy Trinity started with the Ladies’ Holy Rosary Society at the church. Today, its home base is in the parish center, an addition to Our Lady of the Angels School.

Running from Feb. 24 to March 25, this year’s sale topped its previous record on its very first day, with 651 dozen orders. Knapp said the goal is to bake 616 dozen for all 11 days of the sale.

“It’s a hefty undertaking, requiring a delicate dance from volunteers positioned at various stations. Some make the dough and the glaze or transport the dough to warming units where it rises, while others roll and fry the fastnachts, or box them for sale. The days start at 4 a.m., and usually conclude in the evening, with various volunteers working different hours throughout the process.”

“I volunteer because of the camaraderie and the people I work with,” Knapp said. “It doesn’t matter who you call on, they’re there to help. Sellers, rollers, fryers, glazers – we have about 150 volunteers. Different people do different jobs at different times, and everyone is critical. We can’t do this without them.”

It’s the camaraderie that keeps the volunteers coming back, and a tried-and-true recipe that brings the returning customers year after year.

“We have just a little bit of lard in every batch,” Knapp said. “I’d never buy a non-traditional fastnacht. There is a difference!”

Holy Trinity is taking orders online until sold out. Visit www.holytrinitycolumbiapa.com to order.

Don’t Call it a Donut

“Fastnacht” is German for “night before the fast.” In tradition, they were made as a means of using up a household’s lard, sugar and butter before the Lenten fast.

Some 80 years ago, a fastnacht bake started at the former St. Gertrude Parish in Lebanon, which is now St. Cecilia’s, where the tradition continues. Decades ago, the women of the parish would bring their own mixers to the church to help with the sale.

Today, fastnacht production at St. Cecilia’s is an event, requiring an astounding 24,000 lbs. of materials – eggs, flour, sugar, milk, yeast, Crisco and salt...and a secret ingredient that event co-chair Ed Hicks guards like the lucky folks carrying fastnachts from the parish’s three-day sale.

“The fastnacht sale is a staple here,” said Hicks, a third-generation volunteer for the event.

“For the volunteers, it’s a tradition and a part of our heritage. I think it’s that way for the public, too. People will come in to buy some and say, ‘I remember having these as a kid.’ It has such deep roots,” he said.

Preparation for the annual sale, held in the old parish hall, begins after Christmas with the purchase of ingredients. When the trailer of goods arrives, volunteers unpack the items, including 37 cases of 30 dozen eggs. Each egg is hand-cracked during production. That’s 13,320

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TRADITIONS
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The fastnacht production runs round-the-clock, with each fryer producing 30 dozen fastnachts per hour. Volunteers serve as dough makers, rollers, fryers, sugar-coaters and sellers, as fastnachts are stuffed into boxes and into the hands of customers waiting 30 feet away.

More than 200 volunteers, working different shifts and various stations around the clock, make the sale an annual success. “We have opened up for volunteers from the public, outside of the parish, to come in and help, in an effort to share the fellowship of the Church with the community,” Hicks said. “Every hour that someone can volunteer helps. We do whatever we can to encourage people to come, even if it’s just a short period of time.”

In its past two years, St. Cecilia’s has sold a little more than 9,000 dozen fastnachts. Customers return for the tried-and-true recipe, often waiting more than an hour in line if they haven’t pre-ordered.

“As far as I know, there has been little change to the recipe,” said Hicks. “There have been small tweaks based on FDA changes to ingredients and we’ve had to adjust the balance of things, but the basis of it has stayed the same.”

“We only make plain or sugared, and that’s been a staple for us,” Hicks said. “We don’t do cinnamon sugar or powdered sugar – that’s a doughnut, not a fastnacht!”

Cracking 100,000 Eggs
If fried dough isn’t enough to satisfy your sweet tooth, treat yourself to the candy Easter eggs that parishes make and sell this time of year.

With milk, dark and white chocolate coatings, and fillings of peanut butter, coconut, mint and butter cream, there’s sure to be a combination for your taste buds.

The candy makers at Seven Sorrows of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish in Middletown are offering all of those confectionary combinations to help reach their goal of selling 100,000 eggs.

“We made 83,000 last year. We’re aiming for 100,000 this year,” said Susan Dussinger of Seven Sorrows.

With sales stretching beyond the parish and into dozens of local businesses, the goal certainly seems within reach for the parish fundraiser.

Beyond that, the egg-making process is a source of camaraderie for volunteers, including Dussinger, who moved to the parish from the Lancaster area.

“When I came here, I didn’t know very many people. But now, through the egg project, I know very many people,” she said.

A coordinator for the project, Dussinger said that “Everybody who volunteers has their heart in it because they just want to do it for the church. Their time is like their tithe for the church.”

Seven Sorrows is selling candy eggs through Easter. Order at www.ssbvm.org or at the school or parish office, or purchase them after Mass, at the parish fish fry, or look for them at businesses in the Middletown area.

Tripling an ‘Egcellent’ Fundraiser
The candy egg fundraiser at Holy Infant Parish in Manchester started in 2010 as a suggested fundraiser for the York County Parish. In its first year, the project resulted in the sale of 7,700 eggs.

Ten years later, sales have more than tripled, to 23,800.

Holy Infant calls upon more than 50 volunteers to power the three-day project each week of the season. Several are needed to make the batter on Wednesdays. Upwards of 20 cut, weigh and hand roll the fillings – peanut butter and coconut – on Fridays, while 25 or so dip the delectable eggs into chocolate on Saturdays, and package them for sale.

At Holy Infant, the eggs are made for six to eight weeks, and sold at the parish and in local businesses.

“They’re very good, and everybody wants them. We’ll often sell out,” said Colleen Marshall.

“A lot of people like to try eggs from different churches, so we put our parish name on the packaging so people know they’re from Holy Infant and become aware of us,” Marshall said.

“It’s a big project and a big fundraiser for the parish,” said Pat Ostroski. “But when you’re here helping out, you don’t even realize you’re working. You’re having fun and meeting parishioners. The camaraderie is really a nice thing.”

Call Holy Infant Parish at 717-266-5286 to order.
Lancaster Catholic Wins Thriller in Crusaders’ Rematch

By Chris Heisey
The Catholic Witness

In a rematch of last year’s District 3 Class 4A championship, Lancaster Catholic, who fell to the Crusaders of Bishop McDevitt last year at Giant Center, Hershey, looked to avenge that loss as the number one seed in this year’s tourney.

In arguably the best of all District 3 championship games, Bishop McDevitt seized total control of the game in the first half, holding Lancaster Catholic to just 3 points. Athletic and physical, McDevitt took an 11-point lead into halftime after having its way inside and outside against Lancaster Catholic.

But the third quarter was a different story. “We picked things up defensively. We put pressure on them and made them uncomfortable,” 1-year veteran Coach Joe Klaszus of Lancaster Catholic said. “Our best offense can be our defense.”

McDevitt didn’t score a single field goal in the third quarter, scoring only five points from the foul line and getting outscored 18-0 by Lancaster Catholic.

The fourth quarter was great playoff basketball by both teams. Lancaster Catholic led 49-43 with less than four minutes left, but a 10-4 run by McDevitt knotted things up to send the game into overtime after Lancaster Catholic’s James Kamwanga missed a contested 20-footer at the buzzer that would have won it in regulation.

As fate would seem to have it, with seven seconds left in overtime, Kamwanga had the ball again, and again forcing a difficult jumpshot against two McDevitt defenders. “My teammates trusted me,” Kamwanga said. “That was my second chance, and I knocked it down with confidence.”

The 2020 championship is Lancaster Catholic boys’ fifth District 3 gold.

Crusaders Fight to Win 19th District 3 Crown

By Chris Heisey
The Catholic Witness

The only program to win more District 3 basketball championships than the Lancaster Catholic girls’ 19, is Lebanon Catholic girls’ with 20. The Crusaders notched number 19 by beating Eastern York, 3-3, on Feb. 7 at Giant Center, Hershey.

Now that Lancaster Catholic’s Kiki Jefferson is excelling in collegiate play, the Crusaders are in a different era, but the times really aren’t any different. The Crusaders win big basketball games against opponents who may equal them in talent, but do not match the championship intensity and grit these Red Rose girls seemingly possess year after year.

Despite 22 turnovers, the Crusaders still led the Knights the entire game, though only 49-43 with a minute to go. But a key defensive stop and four must-make foul shots later, the Crusaders were hoisting another trophy at center court while the silver medalists looked on. It’s a familiar script, acted upon now 19 times by a program that knows what it takes to be successful.

This is a Lancaster Catholic girls’ team without a superstar this season, yet everyone on the floor can score, and they all can do what the Crusaders have always done best – defend.

While the Crusaders did not handle the ball well, they forced 20 Knight turnovers, which gained needed possessions to nurse that game-long lead. “It’s awesome, and it never gets old winning District championships. It’s not easy winning gold medals in districts. It’s a testament to how hard they work,” Coach Charlie Detz said. “Our girls keep fighting and fighting. I can’t be more proud of this team.”

Lancaster Catholic won the boys’ and the girls’ championships on the same evening.
Delone Captures First District Title in 16 years

By Chris Heisey
The Catholic Witness

Not since 2000 had the Squirettes of Delone Catholic won a District 3 basketball championship. The defending PIAA Class 3A state champions lost last year’s championship game to Trinity by 11 points, but then went on a run in the state playoffs and as an underdog stunned a number of great teams to win the program’s fourth state championship. But for 16 years, the District 3 gold has eluded Coach Gerry Eckenrode’s teams. 2020 solved that hard to believe fact, with a more than convincing win, 44-22, over Trinity in this year’s championship game played at Giant Center, Hershey, on Feb. 27.

Tied 8-8 late in the first quarter, the Shamrocks, who lost by 20 to the Squirettes during the regular season, were having some success with their game plan of pushing the ball inside to 6’3” sophomore center Lauren Trumpy. What great teams do is adjust, and Delone started pushing Trinity’s ball handlers wide, making the inside lob risky business.

Holding Trinity to 1 points over the final 5 minutes, only giving up two free throws, and forcing a remarkable 7 turnovers are numbers that speak to the relentless defense Delone plays. The Squirettes pressed full court the entire game, and the ‘Rocks were never able to get a clean possession or look at the basket. The win is Delone Catholic’s fifth District 3 championship.

“It’s probably been too long for us,” Coach Eckenrode said afterwards, adding, “Anytime you win a district title, it’s got to be special.”

This year’s road to the PIAA final will take Delone Catholic through the eastern bracket of the state playoffs, where teams from the Philadelphia area lurk. It’s easy to believe nobody will take Delone Catholic lightly or as an underdog this March.

Seven is More Than Lucky Charm for Trinity

By Chris Heisey
The Catholic Witness

Sometimes it is better to be lucky than good, but being perfect is the best if you are good enough.

Trinity was that, as the boys’ captured their 7th straight District 3 Class 3A championship with a steely win over crosstown public school rival, Camp Hill.

After beating Camp Hill twice in the regular season with both games hotly contested in front of packed gyms, Trinity faced a clearly motivated and intensity-driven Camp Hill for the District 3 title game at Giant Center, Hershey, on Feb. 24.

While Trinity handled Camp Hill’s quick start, by late in the third quarter Trinity was down eight, struggling to find looks against the Lions’ half-court trap and 2-3 zone. Up 49-46 with less than six minutes to play, Camp Hill began taking their foot off the gas and slowing the tempo.

Credit goes to Trinity for picking up its defensive pressure and seizing the Lions’ lack of offensive push. But what won this back-and-forth game was Trinity’s ability to play clutch basketball down the stretch against a heated rival, in which winning has a little extra salt in the loser’s wounds.

The ‘Rocks were 10-10 shooting in the fourth quarter, with three key three-pointers coming from senior Aley Zangari, who scored 14 of his 21 points in the final quarter to beat Camp Hill. Trinity’s super soph, Chance Westry, led all scorers with 22 points, yet his ability to pass the basketball in traffic to get his teammates open looks is more impressive than his pure scoring ability.

“If they are going 10-10, I mean, how are you going to beat that,” a dejected Camp Hill Coach Scott Barrows said.

“This was a great basketball game. A backyard brawl,” said Trinity Coach Larry Kostelac, who is closing in on 800 careers wins. “Our kids did a super job.”
‘Never Quit’ York Catholic Stuns to Win Gold

By Chris Heisey
The Catholic Witness
At 10-1, the Fighting Irish of York Catholic boys’ team barely eked into the District 3 Class A playoffs as a number four seed.

And their future looked totally bleak, given they drew number one seeded Steel High, a team that smashed them by 1 earlier in the season, to open the playoffs.

Down 0 points with less than four minutes left in the opening game, York Catholic kept playing while the Rollers rested their starters. That the Irish erased the deficit and stunned the Rollers to force overtime was astonishing enough, but the Irish dominated the extra four minutes to win 73-68 in an upset that ranks with the greatest in York Catholic’s illustrious basketball history.

In the District 3 final at Giant Center on Feb. 24, York Catholic had to again rally, this time against the Millersburg Indians. Down 10 points late in the third quarter, the Irish turned up the defensive pressure, nailed a couple of clutch three-pointers and sank its pressure-packed free throws to beat the Indians for the program’s 12th district title, but its first since 2007.

What makes the win even more surprising than the epic playoff rallies is that the Irish’s roster is laden with freshmen and sophomores. It’s not that this team does not have superb senior leadership – it does – but without the Irish young playing with varsity intensity for 3 minutes and beyond, the 00 championship trophy would not have made it back to a school with plenty of trophies in its lobby’s trophy case.

“Wow” Coach Dustin Boeckel said after his team’s 47-46 win over Millersburg. “This is amazing…. It just has been a great experience…. A learning process, and we faced a lot of adversity this year.”

Crusaders Three-Peat in District Swimming

Bishop McDevitt’s boys’ swimming team won their third straight District 3 Class A title at Cumberland Valley High School Feb. 28 and 29, with strong and seasoned swimmers that found themselves on the podium of nearly every event.

The 400 Medley Relay team of Patrick Hemingway, Jonah Hancock, Eli Cargas and Zack Miller finished an astonishing margin of five seconds ahead of their competitors in the finals, with a time of 3:14.96.

The Crusaders also won the 200 Medley Relay, with swimmers Hemingway, Miller, Will Brobson, and John Haskins. Hancock also brought home individual gold, winning the 00 Freestyle.

McDevitt’s winning team score was 310.5, topping second place Boiling Springs by 122 points. The Crusaders are automatically qualified for the 00 Free-style, 00 Freestyle and 200 Medley Relay in state competition, March 11-14 at Bucknell University.

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McDevitt Stand-Out Wins Fourth District Gold, Seven Diocesan Wrestlers Set for States

In the 82-year history of District 3 wrestling, only 18 wrestlers have won four consecutive gold medals. Two of those 18 are from Bishop McDevitt High School – Chase Shields, who accomplished the feat last season in his senior year, and current Crusader standout Nate Smith.

Smith notched two technical falls and a decision on his way to gold at 120 lbs. in the AA finals, held Feb. 21 and 22 at Central Dauphin East High School. He is 32-2 heading into the PIAA Wrestling Championships this weekend.

Joining him atop the medal stand were fellow Crusaders Tyler Martin, 152 lbs., who won his third district gold medal, and freshman Riley Robell, who scored two pins in three rounds to win the title at 18 lbs.

School senior Patrick DeMark won the championship at 138 lbs., earning his second District 3 title. Smith, Martin, Robell and DeMark earned first-round byes in the state championships, taking place this weekend at the Giant Center in Hershey. Joining them are Tate Neiderer of Delone Catholic at 160 lbs., and Devyn Clair, 220 lbs., and Sawyer Morgan, 285 lbs., of Bishop McDevitt.

For the past several years, the non-profit organization Stewardship: A Mission of Faith has hosted presentations for students in the Diocese’s high schools, bringing a message that encourages young men and women to grow in their relationship with Christ amidst the challenges of living the faith in today’s world.

The organization, based in Elizabethtown, is devoted to spreading the Gospel message of stewardship and planting seeds of faith.

This year’s series of presentations began on Feb. 10 at Lebanon Catholic School, and continue through late March. Alternating speakers David Abel and Rob Longo of Stewardship: A Mission of Faith speak about their personal lives of faith. Bishop Ronald Gainer also attends the assemblies to encourage students in their growth as young Catholics.

At the conclusion of the assembly, students are presented with several gifts from Stewardship: A Mission of Faith, including a copy of the New Testament, a Rosary, a booklet on stewardship prayers, and a copy of “The Only Way Evangelization Succeeds” by Anthony J. Mullen. (Learn more about Stewardship: A Mission of Faith at www.stewardshipmission.org.)
Tell me a little bit about your childhood.
When I think back, the most important thing for me was that I learned the faith from my parents. My siblings and I went to Catholic school for most of our upbringing, or religious education when we were in public school, and we were always involved in the Church, but my parents taught us the faith and what that meant.

I am one of four. I have an older brother, a younger brother and a younger sister. We went to Mass every Sunday, every Holy Day. That was tremendously important; it was always the priority. It was always clear from my parents that this is what we do.

My parents were always very supportive of my vocation. I’m also very proud of my dad, who is currently in the Permanent Diaconate Formation Program. Our whole family is looking forward with a lot of excitement to his ordination in June.

When did you first consider the priesthood?
It didn’t seem out of the norm, but it wasn’t something that I ever thought about until I was in high school. We were always very close to the priests in our parish wherever we were, but it was nothing that actually crossed my mind, at least that I remember, until I was in high school.
It was gradual. There are key moments, when I look back, that I remember thinking about it. I link it to Confirmation. I remember when I got there, and those big imposing buildings looked so magnificent from the outside. Inside, it was like you were walking in back in time. I have a number of classmates that are not just from our Diocese who I still keep touch with. I still look back and have great memories of praying in St. Martin’s Chapel. I remember very clearly my first 40 Hours there. We stopped classes, and it was a beautiful memory of prayer.

Then Bishop McFadden asked if I would study in Rome. I found out right before Christmas, and it wasn’t exactly the Christmas gift I was expecting. I was overwhelmed by what an opportunity it would be. I am very close to my family, I am not an adventuruous person at all, so I had some concern about going. My dad told me to pray about it and say yes.

The preference of the seminary in Rome is that, the summer between the first and second year, you can have any kind of pastoral or language-related experience you want, but you just can’t go home. I went there in the summer of 2012, and it was two years before I was able to see the United States again. I was lucky that my family came to visit in the meantime.

During my first year there, Pope Benedict announced his resignation – something that I never thought I would experience. I was there for the election of Pope Francis, and it’s one of the most positive memories that stands out. I witnessed the smoke coming out of the Sistine Chapel and saw Pope Francis come out on the balcony.

Traveling by myself, learning another language, experiencing another culture, they were all positive experiences that helped me to grow.

You were ordained to the priesthood in 2016. Is the priesthood what you imagined it would be?
For anybody, as they’re embarking on a major career, a life choice or even getting married, you walk in with expectations. You’ve been thinking about it for a certain way, for a certain amount of time, and you’ve probably dwelled on the appealing aspects of it rather than the challenging or frustrating ones. The answer to the question is yes and no, and I think that would be true for anybody in anything. In some ways, it has surpassed what I thought it could be, and it has challenged me. But I would say that it isn’t limited to the vision I had when I first entered the seminary.

What is your ministry like at St. Mary’s?
St. Mary’s is an amazing parish. The church itself is extraordinary, but I don’t want to be distracted by that because the parish is the people. The people are faithful, kind, generous, loving, forgiving and patient. They’re all sorts of wonderful words.

It is the Hispanic parish in York, and I was kind of prepared for that at my previous assignment in Gettysburg, where I relearned Spanish. The Hispanic community in York is diverse, and so the ways of speaking Spanish are diverse.

As far as regular things go, I do a lot of things in English and in Spanish. We have active prayer groups. There is a hospital up the road, and Father Charles is our full-time hospital chaplain, but I go there to visit parishioners. We have a very vibrant religious education program. We had more than 50 baptisms and 21 weddings last year. There’s a lot going on.

What do you enjoy most about being a priest?
Celebrating the sacraments; Mass, baptisms, sitting in the confessional, visiting people for the Anointing of the Sick. Those are everyday but meaningful moments. It’s always edifying when you can see the lightbulb going on for somebody, and to be a privileged witness to other people’s journeys. The priesthood is not a miserable, dull, painful existence. It has its unique challenges, but it also has some extraordinary blessings.
The Sacredness of Listening

By Sister Geralyn Schmidt, SCC
Special to The Witness

Father Jonathan Sawicki is the Diocese’s Vocations Director. Not too long ago, I had the privilege of accompanying him to a vocation awareness day in the southwestern part of our Diocese. I truly LOVE talking vocations: the unique call of God to be holy! The journey to be holy is a life-long experience and is as unique and individual as each of us are!

After Father and I discussed how we discerned our individual vocations, we opened up to a session of questions and answers. I have been in the “nun business” long enough to hear the same questions from young folks about religious life. However, on this day, I was asked a question that never was asked before: “Sister, I know your function as a religious is different than a priest. But how do you see your vocation fitting into the Church?”

I paused, asking the Holy Spirit to give me the words that would truly answer what this young woman was searching for. I said, “The vocation to the priesthood is unique because through ordination, the man becomes an alter christus; another Christ. Through his liturgical actions and words, Christ’s body, blood, soul and divinity becomes present to us and our sin becomes forgiven. This is unique to the priesthood. What a gift it is! Religious life, on the other hand, points to Christ’s Kingdom here and now. It announces to the world where Christ is. I am a voice crying out, ‘There is Jesus! Look!’” Father and I exchanged glances and I thought, “Wow! Where did that come from? I never used that image before!”

As I drove back to Harrisburg I could not help reflect on the sacredness of that moment for me. Since then, I have come to realize that there is an incredible hunger within our society for the sacred, for individuals to point that out.

Kay Lindahl, author of The Sacred Art of Listening: Forty Reflections for Cultivating a Spiritual Practice, writes, “Listening deeply to source, self, and others is at the heart of [the need to talk about the crucial issues concerning the meaning of life and the nature of death]. An undercurrent of sacred experience appears to be ready to surface. … Creating safe spaces to share these experiences, developing ways to elicit stories of sacred experience, and encouraging compassionate action are challenges and opportunities for all of us.”

Finding the sacred in the midst of life gives us the perspective that we are not alone. We are connected, not just through social media, but rather because the core of our being is God, we are joined to the past and the present and look to the future. Those sacred moments, those “God wins,” bridge time with eternity.

Own them! Proclaim them! Share them! Become holy!


(Sister Geralyn Schmidt is the Wide Area Network Coordinator at the Diocese of Harrisburg and the Director of Formation for Wives in the Diaconate Program. An educator for 30 years, she is responsible for Professional Development Programs for every age learner. Through her presentations, she challenges her audiences to be the individual God has called them to be.)

Harrsbgk Diocesan Council of Catholic Women’s 95th Annual Convention

“All women of the Diocese are cordially invited to attend Saturday, April 25, 2020 from 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

The Diocesan Center, 4800 Union Deposit Road, Harrisburg, PA.

Bishop Ronald W. Gainer, Principal Celebrant and Homilist

Keynote speaker: Sarah Christmyer – co-developer and founding editor of “The Great Adventure Catholic Bible Study Program” and adjunct faculty member at St. Charles Borromeo Seminary. Blogger at ComeToTheTable.com

Afternoon workshops (choose one)

• “Finding Forgiveness on the El Camino de Santiago de Compostela” with Donna Giberti
• “Active Listening Basics – How to be a Better Listener” with Kelly Collick
• “SHINE” – Faith Based Exercise Program with Tina Kowalski

Game time from 3:30-3:30 p.m. The HDCCW Board will host a version of Family Feud, complete with commercials. Cheer on the contestants and test your knowledge of the Council of Catholic Women.

There will be a meditation room, exhibits, a religious items for sale, a silent auction to benefit the HDCCW Scholarship Fund & a collection of new clothing for infants & toddlers.

Cost: $30 - Includes registration fee, continental breakfast and lunch. Registration and continental breakfast from 8 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.


For questions or information, contact Diane Roskos at HDCCWconvention@gmail.com or 717-991-1605 before 9 p.m.

Cancellations must be received by April 17, 2020

Annulment Presentations Scheduled

The Tribunal of the Diocese of Harrisburg will offer presentations concerning divorce and annulments from the Catholic perspective in the coming months. These presentations will be helpful for divorced Catholics, divorced people who wish to marry Catholics, parish leaders involved in the RCIA process and those who have a vested interest because of family or friends.

March 12 at 7 p.m., St. John Neumann Parish, Lancaster
March 25 at 7 p.m., Diocesan Conference Center, Harrisburg
April 22 at 7 p.m., Corpus Christi Parish, Chambersburg
May 19 at 7 p.m., St. Joan of Arc Parish, Hershey

Presentation will include a question-and-answer session and an opportunity for private conversation with Tribunal staff and representatives. For more information, call 717-657-4804 or send an e-mail to tribunal@hbgdiocese.org.

Catholic Commentary
**Parish Missions**

- **“For This,” performing arts production of Jesus’ road to Calvary**, Palm Sunday, April 5, at 6 p.m. at Our Lady of Hope Church in Coal Township. Presented by the Lit Up Your Spirits Performing Arts. Production is based on the Gospel of Mark, filled with music, moments of reflection and a format that preschoolers to parents can enjoy. For information, contact Dan Thomas, 570-590-2368.

- **Lenten Evening of Reflection** with Viliam Jansen, highly regarded singer, composer and recording artist, March 11 at 7 p.m. at Good Shepherd Church in Camp Hill. Jansen tours internationally as an inspirational speaker, storyteller and song leader. Evening of reflection will offer a faith-filled, spiritual lenten experience.

- **Choirs from St. Joseph Parish, Bishop McDevitt High School and Trinity High School** present “United in Song,” a production that presents the Passion for all ages. For information, contact Chris Monihan at cssm@bcsm.org or 717-237-4344.

- **Mission trip to Kingston, Jamaica, with St. Patrick Parish** in Harrisburg, March 14-21. For information, contact Fred Maurer at 717-273-7930.

**Fundraisers & Events**

- **Harrisburg Diocesan Council of Catholic Women seeks applicants for scholarship.** Awarding a $1,000 scholarship to a Catholic high school senior girl for the freshman year 2020-2021 at an accredited college, university or trade school. Applicants must be sponsored by a mother, grandmother or guardian who is a member of a Parish Council of Catholic Women. Applicant and sponsor must be residents of the Diocese of Harrisburg. Applications are available from Parish Council of Catholic Women presidents, or by contacting Joyce Scott, chair, 717-737-0097 or joybob109@aol.com. Application deadline is May 1.

- **Perohi and kielbasa sale** at St. Anthony Catholic Church in Harrisburg. Wednesdays from 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. and Thursday, April 9-16, from 4-6 p.m. on Wednesdays and the first Saturday from 9 a.m.-noon during Lent. All items frozen. Perohi (pieregi) sold by the dozen for $6.50 and kielbasa in ring or sticks for $7. Perohi fillings include potato and cheese, farmer cheese, sweet cabbage, sauerkraut, prune and apple. www.StAnnByz.org or 717-652-1415.

- **St. Cecilia Parish in Lebanon, fish dinners** on Fridays, March 6-April 3, at Our Lady of the Castle on Rhodes. For information, contact Terri Armstrong at armstrongt@bghdiocese.org or 717-626-5580.

**Pilgrimages & Retreats**

- **Pilgrimage to the Holy Land in 2021 with Father Michael Reid, pastor of St. Vincent de Paul Parish Hanover, Feb. 3-13.** The 2021–12 day itinerary organized by Select International Tours includes Mount of the Beatitudes, Caesarea, Mount Carmel, Caesarea Maritima, Bethlehem, Shepherds’ Field, Jericho, the River Jordan, the Dead Sea, Mount of Olives, Mount Zion, Jerusalem and Eir Karem. Land and air cost is $3,495; deposit of $500 required by Oct. 5, 2020. Flights from and to Newark International Airport. For a brochure and information, contact Father Reid at 717-637-4625, ext. 113.

- **Celebrate 100 years since the birth of St. John Paul II** with Father Tukura Michael Pius, O.P., pastor of St. Pius X Parish in Selsiglesia, on a 12-day pilgrimage, Aug. 3-14, 2020, visiting Poland and Czechia. Rate per person $1,050, includes roundtrip airfare, all hotel accommodations, all meals, transportation and guided professional sightseeing. Registration deadline is April 15. Contact Catholic Heritage Tours at 1-800-290-3876 or www.catholicheritagetours.com/FFPC or Mark Filohoski at 717-558-0889 for tickets. Proceeds benefit St. Rose of Lima School. Ticket price is $220. Tickets at St. Ann Byzantine Cultural Center, main 16th St., Harrisburg.

- **St. Cecilia Parish in Lebanon, spring travel trip** to Myerstown, March 21. Take out offers available from 11 a.m.-4 p.m., sit-down dinner from 4-7 p.m. Cost of $8 includes spaghetti with meat sauce, salad, bread and butter, Jello dessert. Baked goods available for purchase.

- **St. James Men’s Club in Lititz, special Bingo**, March 15 at St. James Parish. Doors open at 12:30 p.m., games at 2 p.m. $1,000 guaranteed jackpot. Must be 18 to play.

- **“Bring on Spring” event at Divine Redeemer Parish in Mount Carmel, March 14 from 11 a.m.-4 p.m. in Divine Mercy Hall. Potato cakes, haluski, sausage sandwiches, Chippewa, baked sausage.**

- **Delone Catholic High School in McSherrystown, open house and scholarship competition**, March 29 from noon-2 p.m. Students, teachers, administrators, coaches and activity moderators available to give tours and information. Eighth-grade students may register for one of two scholarship competitions, essay-style or Jeopardy-style competition. Winner of each competition receives $1,000/year, renewable for 4 years. Visit www.DelonelCatholic.org for information and to register.

- **Delone Catholic High School in McSherrystown, “De-lone in the Dark Nights”** for students in sixth and seventh grades. Girls’ night is March 20; boys’ night is March 27. Games, food, prizes, scavenger hunt in the dark. Make your own pizza. Door prize is a $50 gift card. Drop-off time is 6 p.m., pick-up time is 9:30 a.m. Complete the registration information at www.DelonelCatholic.org and submit it with the $10 payment by March 6.

- **St. Cecilia Parish in Lebanon, spring travel trip to Foxwood, Mystic and the Newport Mansions**, May 3-7. Includes motorcoach transportation, four nights lodging at Two Trees Inn Foxwoods, eight meals. Visit www.catholicheritagetours.com/FFPC or Mark Filohoski at 717-558-0889 for tickets. Proceeds benefit St. Pauline Foundation.

- **Catholic Women. Applicant and sponsor must be residents of the Diocese of Harrisburg. Applications are available from Parish Council of Catholic Women presidents, or by contacting Joyce Scott, chair, 717-737-0097 or joybob109@aol.com. Application deadline is May 1.**

- **Run/Walk**, March 28 at 8:30 a.m. Cost is $25 with shirt by March 5, 2020. 5K run/walk, March 28 at 8:30 a.m. Course starts and ends at the parish’s Marsh Drive entrance.

- **Savings for St. John Paul II** with Father Reid at 717-637-4625, ext. 113.
OBITUARIES

The names of the following deceased persons have been submitted by their parishes. Please remember in your prayers the happy repose of these recently departed souls and the consolation of their loved ones.

Annville
St. Paul the Apostle:
Francesca Barreca
Jim Huey
Stephanie Strickler

Camp Hill
Good Shepherd:
Martha Eboch

Conewago
Sacred Heart of Jesus:
Mary W. Lindsey
Agnes “Dusty” Pohlan

Gettysburg
St. Francis Xavier:
Joanne E. Clowney
Richard P. Eckert
Mary Jane Serio

Harrisburg
Holy Family:
Joseph Reagan

Holy Name of Jesus:
Alex A. D’Santo
Anthony J. Glusko
Sandra L. Papandrea
Donna K. Vignone

St. Catherine Labouré:
Albert Bircher
Karen Townsend

Hershey
St. Joan of Arc:
Thomas Carney

Kulpmont
Holy Angels:
Frank “Sam” R. Chesney
Victoria A. Hodrick
Joseph Wanzie

Lancaster
Assumption BVM:
Betty Fralingier

St. Joseph:
Rudolph A. Bauer
Dennis V. Eaone
Frances Graham
Melissa Ann Hook
Nancy A. Lutz

Lebanon
St. Cecilia:
Daniel Uffner, Sr.

McSherrystown
Annunciation BVM:
Mary Louise May

Mechanicsburg
St. Elizabeth Ann Seton:
James Buck
Nicholas Donofrio

Middletown
Seven Sorrows BVM:
Richard Stichter

Millersville
St. Philip the Apostle:
Susan Snyder Bleacher
Florence Shultz

Mount Carmel
Divine Redeemer:
Christina (Tina) Delbo
Gloria J. Kwiatkowski
Gregory X. Stabinski

New Bloomfield
St. Bernard:
Christine S. MacDonald

New Cumberland
St. Theresa:
Lesa Schaeffer
Thomas Topolski

New Freedom
St. John the Baptist:
Dennis Deems
Helen Uzel

Palmyra
Holy Spirit:
Victor Yanchuleff

Quarryville
St. Catherine of Siena:
Gary Nicholson

Rohrerstown
St. Leo the Great:
Donald L. House
Linda C. Siaton

Sunbury
St. Anthony:
William A. Cobb

York
St. Joseph:
Patrick J. Corcoran
Stephen Euculano
Raymond Rospustinski

St. Rose of Lima:
Albert Rose

Sister Marian Russo, ASC
Sister Marian Russo, an Adorer of the Blood of Christ, died February 1 at the Ruma Center, Ruma, Ill. She was 76. Born December 4, 1943, in Philadelphia, she made her first profession on July 1, 1968 and her final vows on Aug. 15, 1973. Sister Marian held a bachelor’s and a master’s degree in business education, her undergraduate degree from De Paul University in Chicago in 1976 and her master’s from Shippensburg University in 1986. She taught elementary school in Johnstown, Pa., and in Chicago. In the Diocese of Harrisburg, she taught typing, shorthand and bookkeeping at St. Joseph Academy in Columbia and also performed secretarial and office duties there for many years. Sister Marian also assisted the Provincial Secretary and the Director of the Precious Blood Spirituality Center in Columbia and served as archivist for the former province of Columbia. She also worked as an administrative assistant with the Archdiocese of Chicago, volunteered as a librarian in Mountville, and helped process Sisters’ medical claims at the ASC Mission Center’s finance office in St. Louis. The funeral Mass was celebrated Feb. 7 in the chapel at St. Anne’s Retirement Community in Columbia. Burial was in the convent cemetery.

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activities. March 24 dinner at Marzoni’s Brick Oven and Brewing Company in Mechanicsburg, at 6:30 p.m. Contact BJ at 717-686-3089 to attend.

Knights of Columbus Council 13451 or Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in New Holland, St. Patrick’s Day celebration, March 14. Entertainment by Erin Varley and other parish talents, Irish meal of corned beef and cabbage, shepherd’s pie, Irish Center. Tickets are $25, available after weekend Masses or at https://www.eventbrite.com/e/6th-annual-st-patricks-celebration-tickets-94396340997.

St. Joan of Arc School in Hershey seeks a full-time custodian, Monday-Friday from 2:30-10:30 p.m. Duties include cleaning and maintaining good order in one or more of our generally large facilities. Includes physical activities such as lifting, stretching, bending, climbing stairs, operating cleaning and garden equipment. Valid drivers’ license and clearances are required. Contact Matt Dunke at 717-533-7168, ext. 127; 717-533-2854, ext. 127; 717-985-5140, or mdunke@stjoanhershey.org.

Good Shepherd School in Camp Hill seeks a part-time custodial technician to maintain and care for the school facility. Position requires attention to detail and to be a self-starter. Duties include general janitorial tasks (sweeping, vacuuming, dusting, etc.). Schedule: 25 hours a week, typically Monday through Friday/late afternoons and early evenings. Custodial experience preferred. Must complete PA Criminal, PA Child Abuse, and FBI Criminal History background checks and youth protection training. Send resume to fmsullivan@gsschpa.org.

Job Openings

St. Rose of Lima Parish and School in York seeks a full-time director of music and music teacher. Responsibilities include planning, coordinating, and executing the music program as it relates to the celebration of parish liturgies, teaching music to children in grades K-6, and assisting in the musical needs of the school. Position is salaried and eligible for Diocesan benefits. Bachelor’s degree or higher in music, liturgy or theology, and artistic keyboard skills are required. Experience in direction of music for Catholic liturgies and teaching music to children is preferred. Send cover letter, résumé and two letters of recommendation to Father Daniel Richards at FrDRichards@hbgdiocese.org by March 23.

Lebanon Catholic School is seeking a cafeteria cashier to log purchases into student accounts and assist in preparing and serving food. Hours are typically 9 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Thursday and Friday, with more days possible. Starting wage is $9 per hour. Candidates must obtain PA Child Abuse Clearances, PA State Police Criminal Background Check, and FBI Background checks (fingerprinting) upon hiring. Position reports to Food Service Manager. Contact Mike Blizzard at 717-273-3731, ext. 323, or omnis@lebanoncatholicschool.org.

Looking for Lenten Fish Dinners?
Check out the previous edition of The Catholic Witness or find the Lenten Fish Dinners link at www.hbgdiocese.org for the full listings received prior to the start of the Lenten season. The list on the website will be updated as additional announcements of fish dinners are received.

Deceased Clergy!

Please pray for the following clergy who died in March during the past 25 years:

Franciscan Father Gerald Kedziora, 2002
Bishop Nicholas C. Dattilo, 2004
Father Robert Grzybowski, OFM Conv., 2007
Deacon J. Leo Dunn, 2007
Abbot John Neitzel, O. Praem, 2008

Father Lawrence Gross, 2009
Father John Greaney, 2009
Msgr. Thomas Kujovský, OBM, 2015
Father David T. McAndrew, 2018
Father Louis Petruha, OFM Cap., 2019

The CrossWord Puzzle is found on 13
LENTEN PENANCE SERVICES

Parishes throughout the Diocese offer Penance Services during the Lenten season. These services typically include an opening hymn, Scripture readings and time for an examination of conscience prior to Confession. The following is a list of Penance Services provided by the parishes. The Diocesan website, www.hbgdiocese.org, will include an updated listing as additional parish information is received, or contact your parish for information.

ABBOTTS TOWN
Immaculate Heart of Mary
April 7 at 7 p.m.

ANNVILLE
St. Paul the Apostle
March 12 at 7 p.m.

BLUE RIDGE SUMMIT
St. Rita
March 21 at 11 a.m.

CAMP HILL
Good Shepherd
April 1 at 7 p.m.

CARLISLE
St. Patrick
March 8 at 7 p.m.

CHAMBERSBURG
Corpus Christi
March 25 at 6:30 p.m.

COAL TOWNSHIP
Our Lady of Hope, at Mother Cabrini
March 29 at 7 p.m.

CORNWALL
Sacred Heart of Jesus
March 22 at 2 p.m.

DALLASTOWN
St. Joseph
March 29 at 2 p.m.

DANVILLE
St. Joseph
March 30 at 7 p.m.

DUNCANNON
St. Bernadette
March 31 at 6 p.m.

ELYSBURG
Queen of the Most Holy Rosary
March 31 at 7 p.m.

HANOVER
St. Joseph
April 8 at 7 p.m.

HARRISBURG
Holy Name of Jesus
April 7 at 7 p.m.

St. Catherine Labouré
April 2 at 7 p.m.

St. Margaret Mary
March 26 at 7 p.m.

HERSHEY
St. Joan of Arc
March 29 at 7 p.m.

JONESTOWN
Our Lady of Fatima
March 22 at 2 p.m.

KULPMONT
Holy Angels
March 30 at 7 p.m.

LANCASTER
Assumption BVM
April 5 at 6:30 p.m.

St. Anne
March 29 at 7 p.m.

St. John Neumann
April 2 at 7 p.m.

St. Joseph
April 2 at 7 p.m.

LEBANON
Assumption BVM
March 22 at 2 p.m.

St. Benedict
March 22 at 2 p.m.

St. Cecilia
March 22 at 2 p.m.

LEWISTOWN
Sacred Heart of Jesus
March 15 at 3 p.m.

LITITZ
St. James
April 7 at 7 p.m.

MARYSVILLE
Our Lady of Good Counsel
March 26 at 7 p.m.

MECHANICSBURG
St. Elizabeth Ann Seton
March 24 at 7 p.m.

St. Joseph
April 5 at 2 p.m.

St. Katharine Drexel
March 29 at 2 p.m.

MIFFLINTOWN
St. Jude Thaddeus
March 15 at 7 p.m.

MILLERSVILLE
St. Philip the Apostle
March 15 at 2 p.m.

MOUNT CARMEL
Our Lady of Mount Carmel and Divine Redeemer,
at Our Lady of Mount Carmel
April 1 at 7 p.m.

MOUNT JOY
Mary, Mother of the Church
April 1 at 7 p.m.

MYERSTOWN
Mary, Gate of Heaven
March 23 at 7 p.m.

NEW BLOOMFIELD
St. Bernard
March 16 at 7 p.m.

PALMYRA
St. Leo the Great
March 31 at 7 p.m.

SHAMOKIN
Mother Cabrini
March 29 at 7 p.m.

SHIPPENSBURG
Our Lady of the Visitation
April 1 at 6:30 p.m.

TREVORTON
St. Patrick
April 2 at 7 p.m.

WAYNESBORO
St. Andrew the Apostle
April 1 at 6:30 p.m.

YORK
St. Rose of Lima
March 23 at 7 p.m.


d://www.hbgdiocese.org/

HOW TO GO TO CONFESSION

1. Prepare by examining your conscience and reflecting on your sins before you enter the confessional. You might review the Ten Commandments or the Beatitudes.

2. Begin your Confession with the Sign of the Cross: “In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.” You may then say, “Bless me, Father, for I have sinned. It has been [give days, months or years] since my last Confession.”

3. Confess your sins to the priest. If you are unsure of what to say, ask him for help.

4. The priest will propose your penance – such as something for you to do or a prayer to pray.

5. Pray the Act of Contrition as a means of expressing sorrow for your sins and resolving to sin no more.

6. The priest will give absolution by extending his hands over your head. After he says the Prayer of Absolution, respond “Amen.”

7. Go in peace. At dismissal, the priest may say, “God has freed you from your sins. Go in peace.” You can respond, “Amen.”

THE ACT OF CONTRITION

My God, I am sorry for my sins with all my heart. In choosing to do wrong and failing to do good, I have sinned against you whom I should love above all things. I firmly intend, with your help, to do penance, to sin no more, and to avoid whatever leads me to sin. Our Savior Jesus Christ suffered and died for us. In his name, my God, have mercy. Amen.

www.hbgdiocese.org