

FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

THE CLEMENTIAN

March 10, 2019

Even now, says the Lord, return to me with your whole heart. (Joel 2:12) We hear this passage, taken from the Old Testament prophet Joel, at Mass every Ash Wednesday, just as we begin our forty-day journey of Lent. For the people of Israel, it was a call to turn to God in the midst of a national

crisis, but, for us, Joel's words are more personal. They urge us to turn to God with our whole hearts so that He can save us each individually—not from an external disaster, but from the sin that clouds our relationship with Him. Joel's words call us to examine our lives and find the ways we have wandered from the Lord or have hurt one another. They also ask us to open our eyes to the ways that God wants to bless us and draw us closer to Him during this season. In short, these words capture the spirit of Lent perfectly.

You would think that, with such a gracious invitation, we would look at Lent as one of the most blessed, uplifting times of the year. But for all the promise of this season, we can still be tempted to look at it as a time of gloom and sadness. Maybe we focus on what we have to *give up* instead of what God wants to *give us*. Or we might think about our sins more than God's mercy or fret over our need to change rather than rejoicing in His overflowing grace.

Let's try to approach Lent a little differently this year. Let's look at it as a time of promise and hope. Let's look at the call to turn to the Lord as an invitation to discover something new and uplifting—about ourselves and about God. Let's look at the goodness of God, His work of freeing us from sin, and His invitation to receive His love, mercy, and grace this Lent.

Our readings for next weekend, March 16 & 17: Genesis 15:5-18/Philippians 3:17—4:1/Luke 9:28-36
Worship Book #792

ST. CLEMENT CHURCH FINANCIAL INFORMATION

	<u>JANUARY 2019</u>	<u>Fiscal Year to date</u>
Cash Received:	\$ 33,082	\$294,035
Expenses Paid:	35,703	278,003
Cash Received Over (Under)		
Expenses Paid:	\$ (2,621)	\$16,032

DAILY MASS READINGS

Mon 3/11—Leviticus 19:1-18/Matthew 25:31-46
Tue 3/12—Isaiah 55:10-11/Matthew 6:7-15
Wed 3/13—Jonah 3:1-10/Luke 11:29-32
Thurs 3/14—Esther C:12-25/Matthew 7:7-12
Fri 3/15—Ezekiel 18:21-28/Matthew 5:20-26
Sat 3/16—Deuteronomy 26:16-19/Matt 5:43-48



CALENDAR WINNERS



Feb 27—Lois Deibert, #944
Feb 28—Tony Kush, #559
Mar 1—Fred Cicon, #177
Mar 2—Kerry Pfeil, #407
Mar 3—Libby Atterbury, #087
Mar 4—Diane Riner, #659
Mar 5—Gene Rosenbaum, #837

REMINDER...

The **GOOD WORKS SATURDAYS TEAM** is ready and willing to assist you with routine repair jobs in and around your home. If they can be of service to you, please call the rectory.



"Helping Neighbors in Need"



Faith Formation

CONFIRMATION CALENDAR

Mar. 17—Junior High Youth Day

Mar. 31—1:00 PM—11c

Apr. 28—10:30 AM—Rite of Sending (11)

May 8—Confirmation Rehearsal (11)

May 9—Confirmation (11)

Marriage: Every family is called to be a place of prayer, service, and love – a “little Church of the home.” Families naturally do this in their day-to-day lives: “The spirituality of family love is made up of thousands of small but real gestures” (Pope Francis, *Amoris Laetitia*, no. 315). They do this by strengthening the bonds of love among their members, and by asking the Lord’s presence into their homes. USCCB

Life Matters: The Senate failed to advance the Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act—legislation that prohibits infanticide by ensuring that a child born alive following an abortion would receive the same degree of care to preserve her life and health as would be given to any other child born alive at the same gestational age...“There should be no bill easier for the Senate to pass than one that makes clear that killing newborn babies is wrong and should not be tolerated...The American people, the vast majority of whom support this bill, must demand justice for innocent children.” USCCB



OUR DEEPEST SYMPATHY...

St. Clement Parish Family offers our sympathy to **Dick & Jean Buchan on the death of Dick’s brother, Eugene.** Please keep them in your prayers.

BAPTISM



Congratulations to Bethany & Sam DiGuardi on the baptism of their daughter, **Lena Rose.** God bless them!



We welcome to our parish family: **Lois Deibert.** We hope she will be comfortable with us and participate fully in our faith community. Welcome, Lois!!



Penance, Praise and Prayer

An evening of reconciliation, song and reflection with

Taylor Tripodi

Contemporary Christian Musician

We invite you to experience the gift of God’s loving forgiveness through the Sacrament of Reconciliation at our **Lenten Communal Penance Service – “Penance, Praise and Prayer” – on Tuesday, March 19th at 7:00 PM.** Several priests from the Diocese will be available to hear individual confessions. Please take advantage of this opportunity to join parishioners and friends as we reconcile with God in preparation for the feast of Easter.



“It is hard to admit that one is a sinner; it is hard to climb the hill of Calvary and kneel beneath a cross and ask for pardon and forgiveness. But...it is harder to hang there.”



CHILDREN'S CHURCH ENVELOPES

Church envelopes for children of our parish are available for pick up in the back of the church. If your school-aged child did not receive a box of envelopes and you would like him/her to have a box, please call the Rectory Office.



SPECIAL LENTEN 2ND COLLECTION

Next weekend, **March 16th and 17th**, our second collection will be taken up for the **St. Clement Food Pantry**.



The money collected will be used to purchase food items for our Easter boxes which will be distributed to approximately 100 families in our local community. We hope you will be generous.

"Kindness is helping the world, one person at a time."

BETHLEHEM CHRISTIAN FAMILIES OLIVEWOOD RELIGIOUS GOODS SALE

On the weekend of **March 16rd and 17th**, Roni Salsa, a representative from **Bethlehem Christian Families**, a nonprofit organization through **Land of Peace**, will visit our parish. He will be speaking about Christian issues in the Holy Land and the Middle East where Christian families are facing persecutions on a daily basis. Roni will be selling religious goods (Crucifixes, art work, rosaries, etc.), many of which are made of olive wood that is native to Israel and Bethlehem. Sale of these religious items provides much needed aid for the poor and needy families in Bethlehem and the Middle East. Please stop in the vestibule to browse the selection of items available and support this worthy cause. This would be a good opportunity to shop for upcoming communions, graduations, weddings, birthdays, etc. For more information on this organization, you can visit www.landofpeace.org or www.bcfmission.com.



IN CASE YOU DIDN'T KNOW...

LENTEN ALMS CHANGE LIVES

CRS Rice Bowl is the Lenten program of Catholic Relief Services, the official relief and development agency of the United State Conference of Catholic Bishops. Through CRS Rice Bowl, faith communities in every diocese throughout the United States put their faith into action through prayer, fasting and almsgiving. Lenten alms donated through CRS Rice Bowl support the work of CRS in roughly 45 different countries each year. 25% of all donations to CRS Rice Bowl stay in the local diocese, supporting hunger and poverty alleviation efforts. Since its inception in 1975, CRS Rice Bowl has raised nearly \$300 million.

Please take home a CRS Rice Bowl, place it on your table and use it throughout Lent as a tool for collecting Lenten alms. Your donations will be collected during Holy Week.

**ST. CLEMENT BASKET PARTY—
CAN YOU HELP??**

Volunteers are needed for our basket party **scheduled for Saturday, April 27th**. Sign-up sheets are available in the vestibule of the church with different areas listed where we will need help. **Students who are in need of service hours are encouraged to sign up! We need you!!** Please sign up if you are interested in helping in any way.



You are invited to join us for **Shadow Stations of the Cross this Friday, March 15th at 7:00 PM.** Students will silently portray the final hours of Jesus' life from his condemnation to his resurrection. We hope you will make time to experience this powerful form of prayer.



**ST. CLEMENT BASKET PARTY—
ITEMS NEEDED!**

We are in need of empty baskets, gift cards, lottery tickets, bottles of liquor and/or wine, and monetary donations for our basket party. We also welcome gift certificates from those of you who may have a "service" to offer that we could use as a "basket". If you have any questions, please call the Rectory Office @ 255-4422.

Just a reminder – If you are in need of a ride to a parish activity or liturgy, please call the rectory and we will do our best to find someone who is willing to give you a lift. *God uses ordinary people to carry out His extraordinary plan.*



ST. CLEMENT PAVILION

Just a reminder that the St. Clement pavilion is available to rent for your special event—graduation party, wedding shower, baby shower, birthday party, etc. Please call the Rectory Office for more information.

**OUR BULLETIN SPONSORS
ARE THE BEST!**

**Bulletin Sponsor of the Week:
ASSOCIATES IN FAMILY EYECARE**

Please support Associates in Family Eyecare and all our bulletin sponsors for it is through their support that this bulletin is made possible.



/PIZZA HUT "FUN RAISER" DAYS—THIS TUESDAY & WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12 & 13. PLEASE TAKE THE



COUPON IN TODAY'S BULLETIN WITH YOU TO PIZZA HUT. PIZZA HUT SCRIP IS AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE AFTER ALL WEEKEND MASSES AND AT THE RECTORY OFFICE

DURING REGULAR BUSINESS HOURS. THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

LENTEN GARDEN OF THOUGHT



God often uses our deepest pain, as the launching pad of our greatest calling.

What's Happening Around Town...



ST. JOHN THE BELOVED YOUNG ADULT GROUP

Come and join the **newly formed** St. John the Beloved Young Adult Group (ages 20 - 40) for Adoration and fellowship every **second and fourth Thursday of the month**. Our **first meeting will be THIS Thursday, March 14th**. Adoration will start at 7pm in St. Benedict Church followed by Litany of the Sacred Heart and Benediction at 7:45pm. Pizza and fellowship to follow at the St. John Paul II Center on the St. Benedict Parish Campus. For more info, reach out to Fr. Peter Crowe (Phone: 814-266-9781 Ext. 507, Email: pcrowe@dioceseaj.org) or Patrick Roy (Phone: 814-270-4191, Email: proyjmj@gmail.com). St. Benedict Parish is located on 2310 Bedford Street.



PARISH MISSION—ST. BENEDICT CHURCH

St. Benedict Parish, Johnstown, will be hosting Dr. John Bergsma **Sunday, March 31st, Monday, April 1st & Tuesday, April 2nd from 7:00-8:30 PM each evening**. Dr. Bergsma is a full professor of Theology at the Franciscan University of Steubenville. He served as a Protestant pastor for four years before entering the Catholic Church in 2001. A love offering will be taken. For more information, please contact Deacon Michael Russo @ 288-3036 or by e-mail at michael.russo@atlanticbb.net.



Mom's House, Inc. of Johnstown Invites you to **Trivia Night, Wednesday,**

March 27th @ the Boulevard Grill. Doors open @ 5:30 PM – first question is @ 6:30 PM. Admission includes food, drinks, & dessert. Teams of up to 8 people - \$20/person. Prizes for the top 3 teams. Call Allegra @ 535-4848 for team registration or information.



Visitation Parish, 8th Ward, is having their Annual Lenten Fish Fry Take-out Service **every Friday during Lent (except Good Friday)** from 11:00 AM-6:00 PM. Dinner includes 8 oz. Haddock Fish Sandwich, Coleslaw, choice of Macaroni & Cheese, French Fries, or Sweet Potato Fries, and Beverage. Delivery available within a 5-mile range. **Call 418-5017** to place your order.



DIVINE MERCY CATHOLIC ACADEMY 2ND ANNUAL PTO BASKET PARTY

will be held **Sunday, April 7th** at the St. Andrew Hall, Benscreek. Doors open at Noon and drawings begin at 2:00 PM. Donation is \$10 and includes lunch, dessert, beverage, 25 basket chances & door prize chance. Money raised will help fund spring field trips for students PK-8th grade. All admission tickets are sold in advance and are now available at all 3 campuses:

DMCA East Campus: 2306 Bedford Street

DMCA West Campus: 430 Tioga Street

DMCA Middle School (Bishop McCort Business Office): 25 Osborne Street