

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

SATURDAY, February 17th

4:30 p.m. **DOROTHY CONKLIN** by NCWC #3



SUNDAY, February 18th FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

9:30 a.m. **DOLORES KOSANIC** by Rick & Anne Misel

MONDAY, February 19th

NO MASS

TUESDAY, February 20th

8:30 a.m. **JAMES & EDITH MADIGAN** by Mary & Mike Nicholas

WEDNESDAY, February 21st

NO MASS

THURSDAY, February 22nd

8:30 a.m. **JAMES ROSS** by Family

FRIDAY, February 23rd

NO MASS

3:00 p.m. **STATIONS OF THE CROSS**

SATURDAY, February 24th

4:30 p.m. **BYROM MOORE – 1st ANNIVERSARY**
by David & Agnes Moore



SUNDAY, February 25th SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

9:30 a.m. **GAYLE ANNARELLA** by Family

NOTE: If you would like to bring up the offertory gifts during a Mass that is scheduled for a family member or friend please see the ushers before Mass.

PLEASE NOTE: If you need to have Communion brought to you at your seat, please notify the ushers **before Mass**.



ETERNAL FLAME INTENTIONS

WEEK OF FEBRUARY 18th

IN MEMORY OF CONCETTA KORDA by NCWC



WEDDING BANNES

I – JORDYN KOLESAR & DYLAN TAYLOR

PARISH NEWS

www.ststephenchurchniles.com

THEME: THE KINGDOM OF GOD IS AT HAND. Repent and believe in the Gospel. These sound like simple words from our short Gospel today. But it is fitting that Jesus begins His earthly ministry with this powerful message after the Spirit descended upon Him at his Baptism. He asks us to believe in the Gospel and embrace its message of humble service and discipleship.

LITURGY OF THE WORD. In the reading of Genesis, God establishes a covenant with Noah, declaring the rainbow as the reminder to all his people. In the second reading, we hear that the eight who have been saved by water in the story of Noah prefigured our Baptism which saves us now.



2018 BISHOP'S APPEAL FOR CATHOLIC CHARITIES AND CHURCH

– Jesus reminds us that what we do for the least among us, we do for Him. This past year, thousands of people – many of whom live and work in your community – came to Catholic Charities Regional Agency for assistance with food, shelter, clothing, utilities and other basic needs. Because of your support for the Bishop's Appeal for Catholic Charities and Church make this work possible. Please be generous in your support for the *2018 Bishop's Appeal*.

WEEKLY STEWARDSHIP:



ATTENDANCE

Saturday, February 10th
Sunday, February 11h

4:30 p.m. Mass... 166
9:30 a.m. Mass... 123

STEWARDSHIP:

	LAST WEEK	YTD (33 weeks)
WEEKLY BUDGETED	\$ 5,456.00	\$180,048.00
SUNDAYS	\$ 5431.00	\$189,631.23
SURPLUS/ (DEFICIT)	\$ 25.00	\$ 9,583.23

Sunday envelopes – 150

DEBT REDUCTION:

Owed to DOY 2/4/2018	\$196,067.73
Debt reduction envelopes	\$ 419.64
NEW BALANCE	\$195,648.29

Thank you for your continued support of your parish.

*Any time there is a Diocesan second collection, we will suspend our debt reduction second collection for that week. Of course, you may still use your debt reduction envelope at any time.



LUCK OF THE IRISH – Reverse raffle and dinner at Ciminero's March 17, 2018 – Luck of the Irish dinner and reverse raffle tickets now on sale. You may purchase tickets after Mass or at the rectory during the week.

For those interested in volunteering, weekly meetings will be every Tuesday, in the rectory at 6:30 p.m..

SAVE THE DATE – NCWC will sponsor the TNT musical production, *Church Basement Ladies*, on March 22. Hors d'oeuvres and beverages will be served at 7:00 p.m. with the play to begin at 8:00 p.m. Tickets are \$20.00. To reserve your ticket, or for more information, please contact Jacquie Whetstone at 330-397-1427.

ATTN: LAY MINISTERS & SACRISTANS – If you have any requests for the next ministry schedule, that will run from April 8 through August, please call or text Julie Abraham at 330-727-4302 by March 1. **Sacristans** should call Jacquie Whetstone at 330-397-1427 with any requests for that schedule, also by March 1.

DO YOU WANT TO FAST THIS LENT?

In the words of Pope Francis

- Fast from hurting words and say kind words
- Fast from sadness and be filled with gratitude.
- Fast from anger and be filled with patience.
- Fast from pessimism and be filled with hope.
- Fast from worries and have trust in God.
- Fast from complaints and contemplate simplicity.
- Fast from pressures and be prayerful.
- Fast from bitterness and fill your hearts with joy.
- Fast from selfishness and be compassionate to others.
- Fast from grudges and be reconciled.
- Fast from words and be silent so you can listen.



COMMUNION FOR THE HOMEBOUND – If someone in your family or a neighbor is homebound, in a nursing home, in the hospital or recovering at home after a hospital stay and would like a visit and Communion, our new Deacon, Frank Marino and other Eucharistic ministers are available to make those calls. Please call the rectory to arrange for a visit.



MINISTRY SCHEDULE

Serving Mass February 24th & 25th

EUCCHARISTIC

February 24th	N. Hlad/ S. Sylvester	LECTOR	M. Sylvester
February 25th	L. Burgess/ F. Dillon		M. O'Neill-Partridge

EUCCHARISTIC

February 24th	J. Abraham	SACRISTAN	J. Whetstone
February 25th	M. Cullivan		L. Yuhasz

ALTAR SERVERS

February 24th	A. Moore/ J. Yuhasz
February 25th	J. Burke/ J. Cullivan



WE WILL CELEBRATE SCOUT SUNDAY on March 11th at 9:30 a.m. Mass. **Any boy or girl who is part of a scout troop is welcome to participate.** Please RSVP to Patty Fuda at 330-505-1628.

NILES CATHOLIC WOMEN'S CLUB – The Bunco party scheduled for this weekend has been **postponed** until April. More details will follow.



INDIVIDUAL CONFESSIONS HERE AT ST. STEPHEN
Wednesday, February 28th, from 6:30-7:30 p.m.



ENCOUNTER LENT – We encounter Cesia in Nicaragua, where, despite a lack of economic opportunity, young people pursue their dreams by building businesses to better their lives. How

can you work to improve the lives of others this Lent? How can you support those worldwide, who are forced to flee their homes to find safety or better opportunities? Visit crsricebowl.org for more.

We ask God to show us the way as we pray for the success of "Preserving our Faith, our Heritage and our Church"

APPEAL UPDATE as of 2/11/2018

203 Gifts/ pledges totaling	\$ 167,568
Paid to date	\$ 143,428

Thank you to all who have already offered their gift for the benefit of the parish for years to come! Our handrails are being made and will be installed as soon as possible. Other projects are on hold until the weather breaks, but we look forward to spring when we can begin the windows on the post office side of the church. Our parking lot will also need some attention. If you have not already done so, please consider a gift to help us with these much needed projects! Any and all gifts will be gratefully received.

COMMUNITY NEWS

NILES COMMUNITY SERVICES – FEBRUARY COLLECTION – Spaghetti Sauce/pastas

HARRIET'S CUPBOARD – FEBRUARY - Deodorant, Soap, Razors
 There are large hampers in the vestibule of the church for those who wish to help with this mission of Catholic Charities.

COMMUNITY SUPPERS – FEBRUARY – NILES FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH -33 N. Arlington. Suppers are free and open to the public on Thursdays from 4:45 to 6:00 p.m.



CASINO NIGHT

CASINO NIGHT – SATURDAY, MARCH 3RD, 2018 – BLESSED SACRAMENT PARISH – Covelli Center Gymnasium* – Doors open at 5:00 p.m.* Walk-Ins Welcome. **MUST BE MINIMUM OF 18 YEARS OF AGE TO ATTEND.** 50/50 Raffle, Black-Jack and Poker Tables, Food and Beer. *Texas Hold 'Em Tournament* begins at 5:30. \$100.00 Buy-in Fee Equals \$8,000.00 in chips. [Extra \$2,000.00 in chips with registration by March 1st!!!. For more information, contact 330-372-2215. **ALL PROCEEDS BENEFIT BLESSED SACRAMENT PARISH.**

PIROHY SALE – FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 23 – ST. ELIZABETH ANN SETON PARISH – Potato and cheese, sweet cabbage, sauerkraut, prune – Cost \$5.50 dozen; Haluski Plain \$3.50 bag, (with cabbage \$3.75) CALL-330-393-0781 on Wednesday or Thursday to place your order... Pick up Friday.

FEBRUARY 18, 2018: FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT (Mark 1:12-15)
A Family Perspective by Bud Ozar – Jesus went into the desert to put his life in perspective. This lent, take a fresh look at a difficult relationship in your life. Concentrate on the positive things that person does, not just the negatives. Try to understand why their behaviors "bug" you. Can you honestly share your feelings with them without attacking them? Make Lent a time to MEND and FORGIVE!

FEBRUARY IS CATHOLIC PRESS MONTH

"For the readings this Sunday, the first Sunday of Lent, we read God's establishing signs to recall His bond with us, and how Jesus, in preparation for his public ministry, sought solitude in the desert and faced temptation. We also hear the psalmist's prayer that touches our hearts. "Your ways, O Lord, make known to me. Teach me your paths. Guide me in your truth and teach me." As we embark on our Lenten journey, it helps to be open to the ways that God teaches us His truth and guides us in our ways, shows us the signs and speaks to us in the solitude of our hearts. The Catholic Exponent, your diocesan newspaper, offers a ready guide for our Lenten journey. Through the Exponent's News, commentary, Scripture reflections, and adult faith formation, we can proceed through Lent with the assurance that God is teaching and guiding us.

Subscribe or renew your subscription today by dropping the Catholic Exponent envelope from your packet into the collection basket. Or call 330-744-5251 to request subscription information. Seek the glory. Read and support the Catholic Exponent.

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