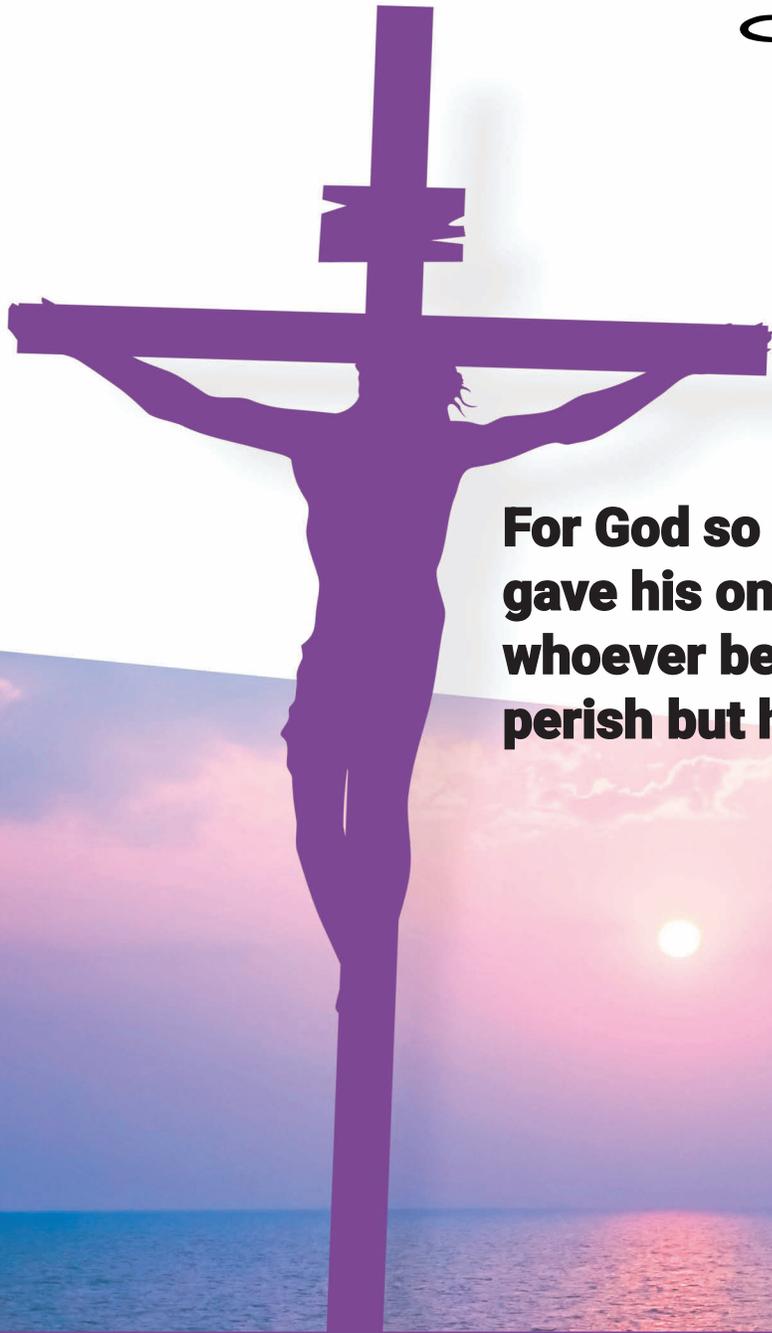


**March 1, 2026**

*Rev. Richard J. Cirba, V.F., Pastor*  
*Rev. Andrew Amankwaa, Senior Priest*

*Second*  
SUNDAY OF  
**LENT**



**For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.**

JOHN 3:16

**SAINT ROBERT BELLARMINE PARISH**

Celebrating Liturgy at St. Aloysius Church  
143 West Division Street  
Wilkes Barre, PA 18706



**EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS PARISH**

420 Main Road  
Hanover Twp, PA 18706

## Parish Information

### Joining the Parish

New Parishioners are always welcome. Call your Parish Office for a Census Form.

### Planning a Baptism

The birth of a child brings joy to the family. Through Baptism, that child is joined to the family enrolled in the Church.

### Sacrament of Confirmation

Confirmation is administered yearly to all 8th Grade students in our Religious Education Program and students attending Catholic schools. Students wishing to receive Confirmation must be enrolled for at least two years before they are eligible to receive Confirmation.

### Scheduling Weddings

Couples contemplating marriage are asked to contact the Parish Office and schedule the date before making any other plans. An appointment with the Pastor should be made at least 6 months prior to the Wedding Date. Couples must be registered parishioners and active practicing Catholics.

### Anointing of the Sick

The Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick may take place at any time, especially if one is seriously ill. Please contact the office to schedule a time for a priest to visit.

### The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

(RCIA) is the process the Catholic Church uses to welcome adult members into the faith. Anyone interested in becoming a part of this process or in obtaining more information about it, please call the Parish Office to speak with a priest.

### Funeral Preparations

The loss of a loved one is a particularly difficult time for those who are bereaved. Our parish community collaborates with local funeral directors in assisting families during their time of grief.

### Bequests to the Parish

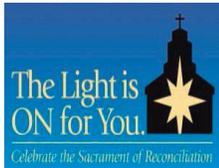
Please remember your Parish with Memorial gifts at the time of death or with a bequest in your will. Make a return to the Lord for all the good He has given you.

### SPONSOR OF THE WEEK:

We would like to thank all who Sponsor an ad in our bulletin. We greatly appreciate your support of the weekly bulletin.

### Welcome to St. Robert Bellarmine and Exaltation of the Holy Cross Parishes.

If you are new to our church or just visiting, please stop and introduce yourself. We are pleased to have you share in this celebration of the Eucharist. If you do not have a church home, or your church is not home to you, we invite you to become a part of our parish family. Both churches are open to anyone looking for a spiritual home. You may register at the Parish Office or call us and we'll send you a form. We are glad that you are here and hope that you will come back again for Mass or become a parishioner.



Every Monday evening during the Lenten Season confessions will be heard at St. Aloysius Church from 5:30PM -7:00PM. We will enhance our evenings of prayer with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament at 5:30PM

**Living Stations** - It's time to start preparing to present the Living Stations, which will be presented here in our parish on **Good Friday, April 18**. Now is the time for our young people to sign up for the Living Stations. Flyers and sign up forms are found in the vestibule. **Rehearsals are being held in the auditorium of St. Aloysius Church every Sunday, at 9:30 a.m.** For more information, please visit our parish Facebook Page or contact Tony Wozinski (570-814-2831 or [TMWozinski@aol.com](mailto:TMWozinski@aol.com)).

### Lenten Regulations:

#### The Fridays of Lent are days of abstinence.

All who have reached the age of 14 are obliged by the **Law of Abstinence – NO MEAT** may be eaten on the Fridays of Lent.

All who reached the age of 18 to the beginning of their 60th year are obliged by the **Law of Fast-you may eat only 1 full meal and 2 partial meals** on those days unless dispensed or excused.



For daily Mass at St. Robert Bellarmine or Exaltation of the Holy Cross Parishes.

If Hanover Area or Wilkes-Barre Area School Districts have a delay or are closed there will be no morning Mass.

### St. Casimir Cemetery



The groundskeeper has started and will be at the cemetery through the fall. There is a cost of \$950/month to maintain the Cemetery. If you would like to make a donation to St. Casimir Cemetery you can do so with a check made payable to the cemetery. Put it in an envelope marked with the cemetery's name on the envelope and drop it in the collection basket. Remember these donations are tax deductible!

### IN THE HOSPITAL, ASSISTED LIVING, NURSING HOME?

If **you** or a **family member** or **friend** is a patient in a hospital, in assisted living or a nursing home please call the parish office and let us know the name of the patient and where they are. This becomes more and more important every day because of changing Procedures in health care.

**Please call us as soon as possible after a relative or friend is admitted into one of these!**

DIOCESE OF SCRANTON  
**LENTEN HOLY HOUR**  
with Bishop Bambera  
**Tuesday, March 24  
7:00 p.m.**  
**Saints Peter & Paul Parish  
13 Hudson Road, Plains, PA 18705**  
2026 Theme: "Finding Peace in Challenging Times"

### PARISH MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone No. \_\_\_\_\_

Please check one:

- I am new in the parish & wish to register  
 Change of Address/Phone Number  
 Moving out of Parish

Please drop Membership Form into the Offertory Basket or mail to the Parish Office.

## St. Robert Bellarmine Parish

[www.stalschurchw.com](http://www.stalschurchw.com)

like us on facebook



Phone Number: (570)823-3791

email address: [stalschurchw@stalloysiuswb.com](mailto:stalschurchw@stalloysiuswb.com)

**Weekend & Daily Masses in: St. Aloysius Church  
March 2-8, 2026**

Mon.	5:30-7pm	The Light is on For You	
Tues.	8:00am	John Gdovin	Tom & Sharon Comitz
Wed.	8:00am	Billy Steckley	Wayne Dwyer
Thurs.		No Mass	
Fri.	12:10pm	Stations & Soup	
Sat.	4:00pm	Carolyn Martin	Carolyn Sromoski
Sun.	7:00am	Lorraine Iorio Eddowes	Rachel & John Holko
Sun.	11:00am	Betty Anthony	Mahalak Family



*Thank You  
and God bless  
you for your  
Contributions!*

### February 22, 2026

Sunday (online incl)	\$ 4,575.00
Loose	\$ 282.23
Dues (online incl)	\$ 540.00
Ash Wednesday	\$ 1,387.30
Utilities	\$ 516.00
Maintenance	\$ 20.00
Lent	\$ 131.00
Little Black Books	\$ 57.25
Perquisites	\$ 350.00
Candles	\$ 97.61
Snow	\$ 20.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 7,976.39</b>

**Eastern Europe \$265.00**



### Both Tabernacle Candles

This week are in loving memory of  
Elizabeth Leptuck  
requested by Rick & Cathy Swoboda.



### Eucharistic Bread & Wine

blessed at all our weekend masses are in  
loving memory of Elizabeth Leptuck  
requested by John & Rachel Holko.

### *The Tabernacle, Blessed Virgin Mother & St. Joseph Candles and the Eucharistic Bread & Wine*

are available to be offered on a weekly basis in memory of, for health & blessings or to honor a special occasion. Please call the Parish office to schedule any of these.



**Join the Choir-** Sr. Choir is now looking for additional members as we prepare for Holy Week and Easter. We are in need of a few members in each section (soprano, alto, tenor and bass). Please consider offering your time & talent during this spiritual season for the good of our parish and our Liturgy.

**Altar & Rosary Society  
Meeting Sun., March 8th at  
1:00PM in Padden Hall  
New members are welcome!**

**Holy Name Meeting  
Sunday, March 8th at  
7:00PM in Padden Hall  
New members are welcome!**



### **Living Stations of the Cross It's not too late to get involved!**

We are excited this year to present once again the Living Stations of the Cross. Our students in grades 3 through 12 will present the stations on:

**Good Friday, April 3rd at 7:00 p.m. in St. Aloysius Church.**

**All school aged youth from grades 3 through 12 are welcome and encouraged to participate. Rehearsals are every Sunday, from 9:30 to 10:20 am and continue the same time every Sunday until Good Friday.** To sign up, or for more information, please contact Tony Wozinski (570-814-2831).



### ONLINE GIVING

We all pay bills online. We order gifts online. Why not tithe online! Never forget to make out a check or bring an envelope. Contact the Parish Office or go to [stalschurchw.com](http://stalschurchw.com) and follow the online giving prompt.



### 2025 Annual Appeal!

Our parish goal: \$34,181.00

Total Raised: \$27,135.00

Amount over/under goal: ~~-\$7,046.00~~

**Thank you for your support!!**

If you would like to **send a card or message** with words of encouragement to **our Seminarian Peter Stec** his address to so is: Peter Stec  
571 Centre Street  
South Orange, NJ 07079

## Stations and Soup

All are invited to the **Stations of the Cross every Friday during Lent, at 12:10PM in St. Robert Bellarmine Parish.** Then come over to **Padden Hall (cafeteria) to enjoy a hot bowl of soup(s)!**

We will continue Stations and Soup on all Fridays during Lent except for Good Friday.

We need your help to make a pot of soup. If you are able to make soup one of the Fridays listed below and/or can help set up and clean up please call Mary Ann Zaledonis at 570-819-3201.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Type of Soup \_\_\_\_\_

Please circle the date you will be bringing soup.

March 6th      March 13th      March 20th      March 27th

# Exaltation of the Holy Cross Parish

Website: [www.exhc.org](http://www.exhc.org)

e-mail: [exhc@aol.com](mailto:exhc@aol.com) [www.facebook.com/holycross420](http://www.facebook.com/holycross420)

Phone Number: (570) 823-6242

March 2, 2026 - March 8, 2026

Mon.	8:00AM	Denise Allen	Daniel & Barbara Pisarcik
Tues.		No Mass	
Wed.		No Mass	
Thurs.	9:00-10:30AM	Silent Adoration	
Fri.	8:00AM	Alice Kwiatkowski	Len & Donna Furman
	4:00PM	Stations of the Cross	
Sat.	5:30PM	Lori Ann Fedor	Todd Materna
Sun.	9:30AM	Florence Cunard	Paul, Joanie & Kyle

February 22nd  
Thank You and  
God bless you  
for your  
Contributions!



Diocesan:  
Church in Central  
& Eastern  
Europe: \$60.00.

Sunday	\$ 4,669.15
Dues	\$ 500.00
Loose	\$ 713.00
Children	\$ 31.60
Ash Wednesday	\$ 1,019.60
Lent	\$ 1,043.00
Candles	\$ 26.00
Snow Removal	\$ 705.00
Utilities & Maintenance	\$ 80.00
Little Black Books	\$ 17.00
Donation	\$ 50.00
Perquisites	\$ 20.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 8,874.35</b>
St. Vincent dePaul Social Concerns	<b>\$ 20.00</b>



Bread & Wine  
for this weekend are offered:  
In Memory of John Karpinski by The Prayer Shawl Ministry

### Candles are lit for 1 week beginning March 1st:

**Sanctuary Candle:** Blessings to our First Holy Communion Class as they receive First Reconciliation on March 14.

**Blessed Mother Candle:** Birthday Blessings for Leanne Niezgodna Family.

**Infant of Prague Candle 1:** Health & Blessings for Amy Ahouse by the Cunard family.

**Infant of Prague Candle 2:** Health & Blessings for our homebound parishioners.

### 2026 Men's Club Officers



L to R: Frank Krasnavage, Jr., Vice-President; Frank Phillips, Chaplain; Father Cirba, Pastor; Ken Spencer, Secretary; Frank Sokola, Treasurer; Stephen Dule, President;  
Absent: Tommy Rudnitskas, Sergeant at Arms.

### Congratulations!

Paul Halsey who was selected as the Men's Club "Man of the Year".  
Congratulations, Paul for all your generosity and help throughout the year!



### Adult Faith Formation - Lent 2026

We will read, pray, & discuss a new book - CRUX.  
6:00PM - Meal in the Church Hall.  
6:30PM - Prayer, Video, small group discussion, Large group discussions.

- Wednesdays, March 4, 11, and 18. It is not necessary to attend all the sessions, if your schedule does not allow.

To register, call Georgette at 570-824-5941 or visit [www.exhc.org](http://www.exhc.org)  
All are welcome to participate!

### Upcoming Events

3/10 - Ladies of Mary Society meeting at 7:00PM.  
3/11 - Lenten Book Discussion at 6:00PM, Start: 6:30PM.  
3/14 - First Reconciliation at St. Robert Bellarmine - 11AM  
3/16 - Bazaar Meeting at 7:00PM.  
3/22 - Gorzkie Zale at 3:00PM.



### Congratulations!



To the Akoto/Kossou family on the Baptism of Jessica Ola Kossou, Jason Kodjo Kossou & Joshua Okouta Kodjo Kossou who were baptized on 2/22/26.  
Welcome to our parish family, Jessica, Jason, & Joshua!

### Bake Goods for the Gift Card Bingo

Anyone who is baking for the Bake Sale can drop off their baked goods on Friday, March 6 in the Church Hall from 5:00-7:30PM or Saturday, March 7 at 10:00AM at Warrior Run Fire Hall.  
Questions: Call Josie at 570-793-7678.



### Youth Ministry Gift Card Bingo



Your help is needed to make this year's event a success! Donations are needed:

- Any denomination Gift Card(s) or Cash
- Baskets for the Basket Raffle

Donations can be put in the collection basket, put in the office mail slot or dropped off at the parish office during business hours.

### Annual Gift Card Bingo

Saturday, March 7, at Warrior Run Fire Hall.

Doors open: 10:30AM.

Games begin: Noon.

Admission: \$25.00 (includes 15 regular games).

- Regular Games pay: \$100.00 in Gift Cards
- 4 Specials each pay: \$250.00 in Gift Cards
- Final Cover All pays: \$1,000.00 (500.00 Cash & \$500.00 in Gift Cards)

Tickets can be purchased in the office, online at [www.exhc.org](http://www.exhc.org) or call Christine at 570-328-4004.

This event is sponsored by Exaltation of the Holy Cross Youth Ministry.



Food Collection for Ashley Food Pantry at St. Leo's  
February food collection: Cereal  
Thank you for your generosity!





# Second Sunday of Lent ✠ MARCH 1, 2026

## A FRESH PERSPECTIVE ON THE SUNDAY READINGS, HIS WORD TODAY

by Rev. William J. Reilly, Most Holy Name Catholic Church, Garfield, NJ

**“He saved us and called us to a holy life, not according to our works but according to his own design and the grace bestowed on us in Christ Jesus before time began but now made manifest through the appearance of our savior Christ Jesus, who destroyed death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.”**

Our Lent is our response to the saving work Jesus performed in our behalf. Jesus died and rose, because of our need and His overpowering love for us. Because of habit, or even indifference, we just acknowledge or presume what happened, rather than think about where we would be at this moment, if God’s plan was not carried out. All this happened because of our need. His saving work continues and with Peter we shout out, ‘Lord is good that we are here.’

‘Lord Jesus Christ, have mercy on me a sinner.’

### SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

#### First Reading: Genesis 12:1-4a

God calls Abraham to leave his family and people and go to a new land. God promises to make the people of this new nation great and to bless Abraham.

#### Second Reading: 2 Timothy 1:8b-10

Paul, from his place of imprisonment in Rome, writes words of encouragement to Timothy, telling him that Christ is for them everlasting life.

#### Gospel: Matthew 17:1-9

Wishing to reveal His glory to Peter, James and John, Jesus takes them to a mountain where he is transfigured before them. When Peter exclaims that he will build three tabernacles here in honor of Jesus, Moses and Elijah, a voice from above proclaims: “This is My beloved Son on whom My favor rests. Listen to him.”

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### First Penance

Saturday, March 14th at 11:00AM  
in St. Aloysius Church.

(Practice for First Penance will be  
Tuesday, March 10th at 6pm in  
St Aloysius Church.)

First Penance is for all Religious  
Education and Catholic School  
Children who will be receiving First  
Communion this coming May 2026.

For more information please contact  
your parish office.



### Gospel Today

Second Sunday of Lent | Matthew 17:1-9

On the mountain Jesus is Transfigured and appears with Moses and Elijah, who in the old testament both remind the people to “Obey God”. Jesus tells Peter, James and John to believe and obey Him and keep this vision a secret until the resurrection.

Year A

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## Believe... Obey God



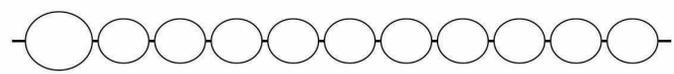
Find and write the missing letters not listed (from A to Z).

Unscramble the letters and fill in the blanks to complete the sentence below.

“This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.  
\_\_\_\_\_ to him!” *Matthew 17:5*

### The Second Sorrowful Mystery - The Scourging at the Pillar

Think about this mystery before praying.  
Jesus obeyed His Father and suffered for  
our sins.



**This week:** Say an Our Father and color the large bead - say 10 Hail Mary's and color each small bead. End with the Glory Be to the Father. Tell Jesus you are sorry for your sins.

**Notice Regarding Reporting Sexual Abuse of a Minor** It is the policy of the Diocese of Scranton to report any allegation of sexual abuse of a minor to law enforcement. If you are a victim of sexual abuse committed by a priest, deacon, religious or lay employee or volunteer of the Diocese of Scranton, you are encouraged to immediately report the matter to law enforcement. If any priest, deacon, religious, lay employee or volunteer of the Diocese of Scranton has cause or reason to suspect that a minor has been subjected to any form of abuse, including child sexual abuse, the matter will be reported to law enforcement. It is also the policy of the Diocese to adhere to all civil and state regulations. In accordance with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's Child Protective Services Laws, reports of suspected child abuse should also be made immediately by phone to the 24-Hour Child Abuse hotline (ChildLine) at 1-800-932-0313 or electronically at [www.compass.state.pa.us/cwis](http://www.compass.state.pa.us/cwis). To this end, the Diocese is equally committed to adhering to the norms of the Code of Canon Law and to upholding the tenets of the USCCB Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People, which includes supporting victims of sexual abuse in their pursuit of emotional and spiritual well-being. As such, information regarding an allegation of sexual abuse of a minor should also be reported to the Victim Assistance Coordinator Mary Beth Pacuska at 570-862-7551.

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