

St. Stanislaus Cathedral

www.saintstanislauspncc.org

Email: Events@SaintStanislausPNCC.org

The First Parish of the Polish National Catholic Church

529 East Locust St. Scranton, PA 18505 – Office 570-961-9231

The Right Reverend Bernard J. Nowicki, DD, pastor – bishop@saintstanislauspncc.org

The Reverend Sean Dodd, assistant pastor – frdodd@saintstanislauspncc.org

Ms. Rebecca Elfman – Organist / Director of Music

Quinquagesima Sunday February 15, 2026



Masses: 8:00 am—Traditional Holy Mass **9:30 am**—Contemporary Holy Mass
11:15 am—Traditional Holy Mass, Cathedral Chapel, Our Savior, Tripp Park

Parish Office: 570-961-9231 – **Youth Center:** 570-961-8364
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Parish Information: Office@saintstanislauspncc.org

Monday, February 16th – 73rd Anniversary of the Death of Bishop Hodur

10:00 am – Holy Mass, Cathedral

Ash Wednesday, February 18th

Opening of the Lenten Season

8:30 am – Holy Mass, distribution of blessed ashes,
lower chapel

12:00 Noon – Holy Mass, distribution of blessed ashes

7:00 pm – Holy Mass, distribution of blessed ashes

Thursday, February 19th

6:30 pm – Cathedral Chorale rehearsal

Saturday, February 21st

10:00 am – Confirmation class

11:00 am – First Communion class

Next Sunday, February 22nd – First Sunday of Lent

Holy Mass: **8:00 am** Traditional **9:30 am** Contemporary
11:15 am Cathedral Chapel, Tripp Park

Schedule of Readers for Stations of the Cross – February 25th – ANS; March 4th – YMS of R; March 11th – Cathedral Chorale; March 18th – UYA; March 25th – Parish Committee.

Young Adults Group – Help Us Plan Our Weekly Gathering!

The Young Adults Group is choosing a new meeting day and would like to know what works best for the young adults in our parish. Scan the barcode to share your availability, and feel free to pass this along to others who may be interested.



Our Bells Are Sounding Again – ‘Hark how the bells, sweet silver bells, all seem to say’ come pray today.... Once again we hear the full complement of our steeple messengers ringing out their reminders to us of the beginning of each Mass and religious service along with the hours of the day, morning, noon and night. The mechanisms that allow our bells to voice their distinctive messages have been upgraded and replaced and only await your generous donation to help defray the cost of their improvement.

Did Jesus Teach Against Using Ashes? (from *Catholic Answers*) -

The Book of Acts 13:2 says the Holy Spirit spoke to a group of Christians in Antioch who “were worshipping the Lord and fasting.” A first-century Catechism called the *Didache* says that Christians fasted on *Wednesday and Friday* (8:1).

Not only did Jesus expect his disciples to fast, but they fasted during periods when *everyone knew they would be fasting*, such as the annual day of atonement, Yom Kippur. (Luke probably mentions this when he refers to “the fast” in Acts 27:9.)

Jesus’ warning, therefore, is not about doing something that would reveal you’re fasting. If it was Yom Kippur (or a similar holy day), everyone would expect a faithful Jew to fast. The warning is about doing something to *draw attention* to your fasting and the toll it takes on your body. That’s why Jesus gives the following command: “Do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces.”

How would someone look “dismal” by disfiguring his face? What makes him a hypocrite? The word *hypocrite* refers, in part, to the masks that an actor in a Greek play would wear on stage. A hypocrite only plays a part, so a religious hypocrite is someone who appears pious but actually isn’t (one of Jesus’ stock complaints about the Pharisees). But, in general, Catholics don’t wear ashes in order merely to appear to be pious. Ashes are instead a genuine sign of internal repentance and recognition that the wearer of the ashes comes from dust, and to dust he shall return (Gen. 3:19) [...]

Jesus’ criticism is not of people who engage in religious activities that outwardly manifest genuine repentance or spiritual sacrifice. Instead, Jesus criticizes people who engage in exaggerated behaviors, who “disfigure” themselves, in order to draw attention to their fasting, or even to fabricate it. [...]

In closing, Matthew 6:16 does not condemn wearing ashes for the purpose of entering into a spirit of repentance for observing Lent. But that doesn’t mean Jesus’ warning is irrelevant to us today. If we treat ashes as a hip way to stand out from the crowd and announce to others that we’re Catholic, then Jesus will tell us that we “already have our reward.” This also applies to people who might not “disfigure their faces” but enjoy complaining about how difficult it is to fast or give up something during Lent in order to get sympathy from other people. But if we maintain a holy disposition while wearing ashes or fasting, then we will carry out Jesus’ command to “let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven” (Matt. 5:16).

The Four Traditional Lenten Disciplines: *Praying, Almsgiving, Fasting, Scripture Reading*

PRAYING is the first of the Lenten disciplines:

- praying daily at home;
- praying every Sunday in Church at Mass;
- praying every week at Lenten devotions on Wednesdays and/or Fridays
 - in the Cathedral on Wednesdays, 7:00 pm
 - in the lower chapel on Fridays at 12:00 noon;
- coming to church 15 minutes before every Sunday Mass to read and meditate on the *scripture readings* provided in the order of service for the Mass;
- coming to church 15 minutes before every Sunday Mass, to read and meditate on the *hymn texts* selected for the Mass since hymns are poetic prayers, reflections and also tiny yet pithy sermons which can provide you with guidance and comfort.

ALMSGIVING - monetary offerings, grants, gifts, bequests and donations:

- providing increased offerings to the Church at its various levels – parochial, diocesan and national;
- contributing more broadly to various parish projects, needs;
- arranging the inclusion of a generous bequest to the Church from your estate after your death;
- responding to requests you receive in the mail for worthy charities;

FASTING is a long-hallowed Lenten discipline:

- adjusting your dietary routines by not eating any meat each Wednesday and Friday – without substituting lobster and scallops for the meat you’re not eating;
- giving up one or more things through the whole season that you like to eat/drink or something you enjoy doing;
- *fasting from wrongdoing*, that is, doing good to others, doing acts of love towards others, doing random acts of kindness towards others.
- *fasting from noise*, that is, disconnecting from devices to remain periodically in silence, aural or visual, to think about your life, your Lord, your God.

READING SCRIPTURE:

- Bible reading each day through Lent on the theme of living out the Season of Lent as Resurrection People as given below.
- All these disciplines require a sacrifice – the sacrifice of your time for prayer, Lenten devotions, scripture reading, fasting and almsgiving.

These four activities comprise the Lenten mortification you hear about each year. But it’s less about the mortification of the flesh than about something much worse, and for many of us, far more painful; the *Lenten mortification outlined for you above is truly about the mortification of your personal schedules* – which would need to be adjusted within the seven-week period in order to accommodate your participation in the various Lenten disciplines, as you prioritize *those* activities over other activities in your schedules.



The FOUR LENTEN DISCIPLINES – Praying, Fasting, Almsgiving and Daily Bible Readings

Let’s live Lent as People of the Resurrection.....

....following our Saviour as he takes up his cross. We repent of our sins. We live Lent knowing the end of the story. Our sins are forgiven, washed away in Jesus’ blood. The promise of the empty tomb is the promise of paradise!

PONDER THE LOVE OF GOD
Repent and Receive Forgiveness

<i>Ash Wednesday</i>	God redeems His people	Psalm 77:12-15
<i>Thursday</i>	A gift of love	Luke 15:8-10
<i>Friday</i>	Have mercy	Psalm 51:1-7
<i>Saturday</i>	Made clean	1 John 1:7-10

(HELP YOUR CHILDREN learn the citations in the Bible:

Luke is a Book in the Bible.

15: is the chapter of a Book in the Bible.

1-7 are the verses of the chapter of a Book in the Bible.)



Lenten Services and Events

Ash Wednesday –February 18th – 8:30 am – Holy Mass, lower chapel, with ashes
 12:00 noon – Holy Mass, distribution of blessed ashes
 7:00 pm – Holy Mass, distribution of blessed ashes

Wednesdays – 7:00 pm (*beginning February 25th*) – Stations of the Cross, Cathedral

Various societies and parish ministries will read the meditations each week.

Fridays – 12 noon (*beginning February 27th*) – Stations of the Cross, chapel, lower chapel

(Cathedral Chapel, Tripp Park attendees may worship at the hour given above on either day)

One Hot Meal Food Pantry – Please bring **basic cereal or oat meal** next Sunday for the One Hot Meal food pantry. Thank you for your support.

THIS WEEK'S LITURGIES

Monday, February 16 – 73rd

Anniversary of the Death of Bishop Hodur

10:00 am – Holy Mass

Tuesday, February 17

8:30 am – Holy Mass

Ash Wednesday, February 18

8:30 am – Holy Mass, distribution of blessed ashes, *lower chapel*

12:00 NOON – Holy Mass,

distribution of blessed ashes

7:00 pm – Holy Mass, distribution of blessed ashes

Thursday, February 19

8:30 am – Healing Mass

Friday, February 20

8:30 am – Holy Mass

Saturday, February 21

8:30 am – Holy Mass

Church Dates Ahead

March 1st: Annual Congregational Meeting

March 8th: Solemnity of the Institution of PNCC

March 14th: Scranton Seniorate Lenten Retreat, St. Adalbert's Parish, Dickson City

March 29th: Palm Sunday

April 5th: Easter

Apr 18-25th: Conference of Scholars, Scranton

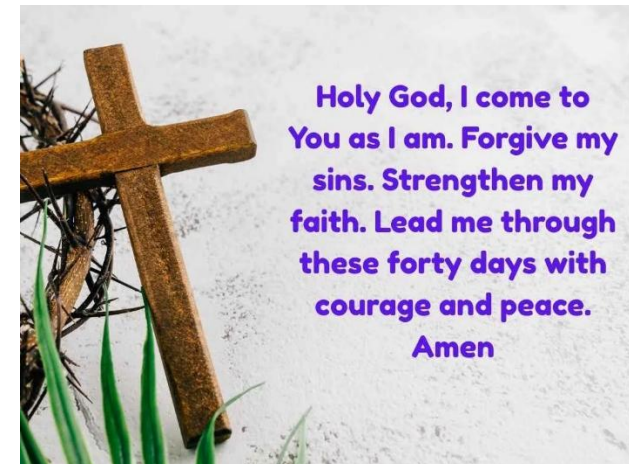
May 29-31st: Mission & Evangelism Workshop

June 17-20th: YMSR Men's Retreat, Waymart

July 4-11th: Kurs, Waymart

Aug 3-7th: Youth Convocation, Jaffrey, NH.

Sept 28 – 30th: PNCC Synod, Manchester, NH



Holy God, I come to You as I am. Forgive my sins. Strengthen my faith. Lead me through these forty days with courage and peace. Amen