

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

First Sunday of Lent February 22, 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
Fred Aebli: Parishchair@saintstanislauspncc.org
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Parish Information: Office@saintstanislauspncc.org

Wednesday, February 25th

7:00 pm – Stations of the Cross with Exposition and Benediction

Stations readers – ANS

Thursday, February 26th

6:30 pm – Cathedral Chorale rehearsal

Friday, February 27th

12:00 noon – Stations of the Cross, lower Cathedral Chapel

Saturday, February 28th

10:00 am – Confirmation class

11:00 am – First Communion class

Next Sunday, March 1st – Second Sunday of Lent

**** Holy Mass: 9:00 am Contemporary**

Annual Parish Meeting following Holy Mass.

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.

Reports Prepared for Distribution – Your reports for our annual congregational meeting are laid out for you on the table in the lower auditorium. Please take one of each to review and consider for our discussions when we gather together there on **Sunday, March 1st after the single 9:00 am Mass.**

One Hot Meal Food Pantry – Please bring **peanut butter & jelly** next Sunday for the One Hot Meal food pantry. Thank you for your support.

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.



Why Ashes? – Maybe you’ve heard of the mythological bird called the phoenix. It was considered an immortal bird because in the very moment of its death, it became engulfed by then consumed in a blazing fire. And then, from the ashes of its fiery death, the phoenix rises as it has done many times before, a splendid, magnificent bird once again, reborn from out of its own ashes.

I wonder if there’s a metaphorical parallel here between this bird of ancient fable and our observance with ashes. After all, doesn’t Ash Wednesday offer us a chance of dying into new birth?

The liturgy for Ash Wednesday asks us for a couple of things: first, that we reveal to God those impediments, those sins, that hold us back from being what God called us to be; and second, that we eliminate those impediments, or metaphorically, burn them all away.

After all, doesn’t Ash Wednesday call us to inspect our lives? Doesn’t that day invite us to review how we’re treating one another, and then to examine our relationship with God, *i.e.*, our worship, praise and our gratitude towards him? Because from that day forward, into the next seven weeks, all our fasting, our ceremonies and prayers, all our devotional reading and our almsgiving are the very activities that are going to burn to ashes everything that prevents us from growing in Christ and growing into Christ.

Just remember: Jesus warned us not to store up treasures here on earth. That’s why he’s advising us to burn up all those earthly attitudes and behaviors that too often too many of us ‘treasure’ too much like those grudges we bear against each other; like the anger we allow to simmer and percolate behind the smiles we otherwise plaster on our faces; like the false rumors we circulate when we really know the true story; like our unwillingness to love others by not showing them forgiveness; and like our disregard for regular Sunday worship.

You and I have a tendency to hold on to these things, and maybe even ‘treasure’ the pain they bring to others and to God. These are the things we need to fast from – and then ‘burn’ away by sacrificing them, giving them up for Lent. Otherwise, these attitudes and behaviors will get in the way of our reconciling with each other and reuniting with each other as Jesus taught us to do.

We’re entering into this 40-day season of Great Lent in order to listen to God and be attuned to God’s voice, wherever we might hear it. We can hear God’s voice in each other’s voice, and in our prayers at church or at home; in meditation, bible reading and also in fasting from those earthly attitudes and behaviors that turn us away from God.

Each of you is entering into the holy Season of Lent in order to enable yourselves to rise up from the ashes of those impediments and sins you will burn away by the means listed above; and in doing so, open yourself up both to the love of God and to the service of God’s people. Throughout this entire Season, from this first Sunday of Great Lent forward, it’s the crucified, buried and risen Savior, Jesus Christ, our Lord, whom you and I will be following. We can rise from Wednesday’s ashes knowing that our faith in Jesus Christ, combined with our dying to sinfulness, will bring us eternal life with Jesus Christ.

The ashes on your forehead remind you that from dust you came and unto dust you shall return. But be assured that the Lenten spiritual work you’ll be involved in as outlined in our weekly bulletins, will reveal that your soul goes back to God.

The ashes of this holy Season are not only the signs of *repentance* and *regret* and *sorrow*; those ashes are also the signs of promise.



Lenten Services and Events

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*)

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

PRAISING 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!

THE PURPOSE OF GOD
The Lord Fulfills His Purpose

<i>Sunday</i>	The Lord’s purpose for me	Psalm 138:4-8
<i>Monday</i>	To give his life	Mark 10:42-45
<i>Tuesday</i>	The Son’s purpose	John 12:27-33
<i>Wednesday</i>	Seeking the lost	Luke 15:1-7
<i>Thursday</i>	Your will be done	Luke 22:39-46
<i>Friday</i>	The way of the cross	Matthew 16:21-28
<i>Saturday</i>	Called, justified and glorified	Romans 8:28-30

Breakfast Buffet with the Easter Bunny sponsored by Branch #1 of the YMS of R takes place **Sunday, March 22nd** after 9:30 a.m. Mass in the Parish Youth Center. **Tickets are: Adults - \$12.00; Children age 4-12 - \$5.00; Children ages 3 and under: Free.** Please make reservations in the Parish Hall after 9:30 am Mass on Sundays or call Frank Gerardi 570-587-3672. A *limited* number of tickets will be available at the door, so please make your reservations by **Thursday, March 19th**.

YMS of R Bowling Tournament – Holy Trinity Parish in Woodlawn, NY (Buffalo area) will be the host parish for the annual YMS of R Bowling Tournament on **May 15-17, 2026**. We are returning to the old format of the tournament as was requested by many people. The option to bowl only 3 games on Friday is available. You can choose either Doubles or Singles. All scores will be with handicap.

For more information contact Art Golembeski by email at artbowl@msn.com or at 570-575-5231.

Easter Flower Donations – As Lent begins, please consider donating \$30.00 or more to the ANS Flower Fund in honor or memory of loved ones. Your donation will help beautify our Altars for Easter. Please make checks to ANS Flower Fund and drop in Offertory Basket or mail to 529 E. Locust St. Scranton, PA 18505 by March 28th. Please include names of loved ones. Any questions please contact Connie Tellep (570) 222-4409.

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 15-17th: YMS of R Bowling Tournament Hosted by Holy Trinity Parish, Woodlawn, NY
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

THIS WEEK'S LITURGIES

Monday, February 23

8:30 am – Holy Mass

Tuesday, February 24

8:30 am – Holy Mass

Wednesday, February 25

8:30 am – Holy Mass,

Thursday, February 26

8:30 am – Healing Mass

Friday, February 27

8:30 am – Holy Mass

Saturday, February 28

8:30 am – Holy Mass



**Lord, cleanse my heart
and renew my spirit.
Remove anything that
separates me from
you. Help me walk in
your truth and live
according to your
purpose. Let this
season shape me into
the person you
created me to be.
Amen**