



Jesus
remained in the desert
for forty days

Saint Michael Parish

85 North High Street, Greenville, PA 16125
724-588-9800

**SUNDAY
FEBRUARY
18
2024**

**FIRST
SUNDAY OF
LENT**

Saint Margaret, Parish's Mission Church
701 Denver Street, Jamestown, PA 16134

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st.michaelchurch@neohio.twcbc.com

Fr. Brandon Kleckner
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UPCOMING EVENTS

Feb. 19-21 Fish Fry Work Days at K. of C. begin at 11 AM.
Feb. 20 Divine Mercy Chaplet 3 PM.
Feb. 20 Bible Study at 6:30 PM.
Feb. 21 Stations at 6:30 PM at St. Margaret.
Feb. 22 Men's Fellowship Group Meets at 6 AM.
Feb. 23 Fish Fry Dinners begin 4-6:30 PM.
Feb. 23 Stations at 7 PM at St. Michael.
Mar. 2 22:32 Men's Conference Event (Erie, 8:30 AM.)

STEWARDSHIP

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time
\$11,358.95

CSA
Pledged: \$36,825
Paid: \$22,110

**THANK YOU FOR THE GENEROSITY YOU SHOW
TO OUR PARISH**

FISH FRY DINNERS

Fish Fry Dinners begin Friday Feb. 23 from 4 to 6:30 PM at the K.of C. Hall. Adults \$15, Youth to age 12 -\$12. Eat in or take out. Call 724-588-9911 to place take out orders.

REST IN PEACE

Please pray for the repose of the souls of Dolores Wertz, Ed Shelley, John Holiga, Ann Bunton, and Michael McCann, brother of Linda Reash. May their souls and all the souls of the faithful departed rest in peace.

Date / Mass	Lector	Cantor	Accompanist	Altar Servers
Feb. 24 / 4:30 PM	Mary Ann Marshall	Kloe Soros	Sharen & Jerry Seiple	Maggie L., Mason M., Kyle B.
Feb. 25/ 8:00 AM	Mark Holian	N/A	N/A	None scheduled
Feb. 25/ 11:00 AM	Joseph Yarzab	Susan Swartzbeck	Kathy Williams	Callie, Tucker, & Liza S.

MASSES FOR THE WEEK

Weekday Masses Tues- Fri 9AM /First Sat 9AM
Saint Michael Church

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 20

Edward "Trace" Pickens (Tom Murrin)

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 21

Saint Peter Damian
Fab Barber (Nancy Mosconi Family)

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 22

The Chair of Saint Peter
George Macko (Mary Jo Lipani)

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 23

Saint Polycarp
Martha Loreno (Ed Loreno Family)

SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24

4:30 PM Saint Michael Church
Mary Jane Reinhart (K. of C.)

SUNDAY FEBRUARY 25

8:00 AM Saint Margaret Mission
For the People of the Parish

11:00 AM Saint Michael Church
Ellen Martin (Ann & Mike Isacco)

40 CLUB WINNERS-FEBRUARY 7

\$100- John F. Scott; \$100- Larry Davis; \$50-
Chris Haines

SANCTUARY CANDLES INTENTION & DONOR

Feb 15-29 Isaiah John Perry (Don & Maureen
St. Margaret Shine)

Feb 15-29 Jason Gill (Don & Maureen Shine)
St. Margaret

Mar 1-15 Jennifer Kerr (Aunt Carole)

SIDY BY SIDE DRAWING WINNERS

Grand Prize - Michael Metz
2nd Prize - Susan Turner
3rd Prize - Christina Wong.

Thank you for supporting St. Michael School!

PRO LIFE BREAKFAST

The annual Pro Life Breakfast will be held on February 24 at the Corinthian Banquet Hall beginning at 9 AM. Tickets may be purchase online at pro-lifemercercounty.org.

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP GROUP

After a brief pause, the Men's Fellowship group will reconvene Thursday morning, February 22, in McElhinny Hall. A Lenten program focused on taking a look at *A Biblical Walk Through Christ's Passion* will be conducted. The door will open before 6 AM with the video starting at 6:15 AM, followed by group discussion, with conclusion by 7:20 AM. This is an excellent activity for Lent. Please join us as we take a closer look at and discuss Christ's Passion and its applicability to our lives!

22:32 MEN'S CONFERENCE

The eleventh annual Catholic Men's Conference in Erie is scheduled for Saturday, March 2. The name "22:32 Men" is based on the theme of Luke 22:32: "*But I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned back, strengthen your brothers.*" The conference will be held at St Jude Parish, Erie from 8:30 AM to 1:00 PM. The program consists of two amazing speakers and Mass with Bishop Persico. The cost is \$20 per adult with a group of 8 or more, otherwise \$25 (high school and college students free). For more information or to register, visit www.2232Men.com **Car pool from St. Michael's north parking lot will leave at 7:00 AM.**

A WORD FROM FATHER BRANDON

Welcome now to the Season of Lent. Annually, what I do appreciate and love about this season is not necessarily the low hanging fruit of its various trappings and traditions. I don't mean to be annoying or dissuading, but I have often struggled to enter into Lent and remain with it for the duration. Not entirely sure why, it just is what it is for me. But that doesn't mean I write it off - it is a Season in the Liturgical Year Christ desires His Bride to enter into and find the richness of Grace. For this reason, though it is a challenge for me, I enter it knowing my Lord wants me here, and so I seek Him there. Largely, my sacrifice in Lent is just 'doing Lent' for it is a cross that can seem weighty for me. Lesson - the Christian life and a Liturgical Life can be challenging just as it is beautiful and satisfying - stay the course!

Besides the weight of that cross, like I said, the low hanging fruit of Lent - especially giving up chocolate chips or something mindless like that - isn't what I'm drawn to or find myself gravitating towards. For me, Lent is the Season where I elevate my awareness of my dependence on God for all things. That might not sound all that much higher up the branches as, say, giving up cotton candy or observing meatless Fridays so we drive up to Red Lobster and indulge on the Admiral's Feast or endless shrimp, because, well, you know, fish - but it is something, though, that better grounds me in my relationship with God - and isn't that the whole point of all this? I find myself susceptible, just as anyone else, to the allure of self-sufficiency through creativity and ingenuity. I am among the last to discourage ingenuity and creativity, the human spirit thrives on creativity, but it thrives on it when it leads us deeper into mystery and the divine, *not* our self-possessed tendencies. We are least alive, least fulfilled, least holy when we are serving *ourselves* with our gifts, talents, and creativity. We were created for the pursuit of beauty and transcendence. When we are able to take all that we are capable of and use it to hurl ourselves headlong into the Mystery Of God, *then* we are alive! Simply put, Lent is where I tend to reassess how I've been using all I am to bring about those spiritual realities I want to see and experience, and make movements to use all that I am to bring about greater mystery and beauty and awe in my life. Because of my own fallenness, I can tend towards, and need to fight against, serving and ministering to Brandon, though I hate that, it's the illness of sin. I love, though, serving God - Lent helps me recalibrate so that my life is continually pointing to that mystical union with Christ I was created for.

All of that may sound vague or convoluted to you, and that's ok and really my point of writing any of that! Each of us has our own spiritual needs and longings because we are all in different places in our spiritual life and relationship with The Holy Trinity. That's the beauty of the Church - we are all in this together, not as programmed bots or lemmings, but rather as people - broken, yet beloved! So, approach these liturgical seasons, feasts, and your own vibrant and intimate life of prayer not from a position of 'Catholic guilt' or 'Catholic peer pressure', but from where you are and where you know you and Lord need to be. That just takes deliberate awareness, discipline, and daily longing, but it's so worth it!

Love,
Fr. Brandon