

**February 22, 2026**

*1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Lent*

**FASTED**  
FOR 40 DAYS.

— MATTHEW 4:2 —

**FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT**

©LPI

## **LENT HAS BEGUN**

*"Return to me with all your heart."*

— Joel 2:12

If you are new, returning, or quietly searching — this Lent is for you.

**Walk with us in prayer & renewal this Lenten season.**

See Page 4 for ways to join us this Lent or scan the QR code for the full Lenten schedule.



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When you  
have the  
opportunity  
to **do good**,  
do not  
let it go by.

St. Polycarp



©LPi

*Welcome!*

Whether you come every week, are returning after some time away, or are visiting from another faith tradition — we are grateful you are here.

All of our parishes use the Breaking Bread missal/hymnal. The first 30 pages include the prayers, responses, and posture guidance for Mass. Readings are listed by date. (At Our Lady of Pompeii Campus, readings and music are displayed on the screens.)

***If it's been a while, welcome home.***

Take this time to rest in His Presence, listen to His Word, and be renewed in spirit.

May this celebration of prayer, Word, and Eucharist draw us closer to Christ and to one another. We invite you to join us in the many opportunities to grow in faith and community.

***We're truly glad you're here.***

**Abbreviations**

SJB - St. John the Baptist Parish  
SMP - St. Martha Parish  
SMA - St. Mary of the Assumption Parish Hill Campus  
OLP - St. Mary of the Assumption Parish Our Lady of Pompeii Campus  
SJC - St. Mary of the Assumption Parish St. James Church  
SPA - St. Philip the Apostle Parish

## **PRAYER REQUESTS**

*Please keep our Military and First Responders in your thoughts and prayers as they protect and serve our communities.*

### **NEW PARISHIONERS**

*Welcome to our Family!*

SJB - John & Teresa Darlak, Carin Novick,  
Matthew & Alyssa Bagley

### **THOSE IN POOR HEALTH**

Sister Ann Helene	Elaine Ladowski
Eileen Barron	John Lewandowski
Joanne T. Conboy	Susan Loniewski
Wendy Dobbins	Donna Mahoney
Dawn Duncan	Patrick McGinley
Kathy Duncan	Mary Ellen McNeill
Laila Desjardins	Arlene Miodonski
Weston Faith	Michael Munn
Tim Freeman	James Nowinski
Mitzi & Max Fuller	Shirley Salerno
Ann Marie Gleber	John & Karen Schaller
Tricia Hrycko	Donna Stengel
Barbara Kidder	"Ace" David Thornton
Kathy Kirk	Jackie Wolfram
Robert L. Knauber	Joseph Zaklikowski

*Names will be on this list for two months.*

*Add Someone: 716-668-8370 x 330 or  
<https://tinyurl.com/bdclsicklist>*

### **DEARLY DEPARTED**

SJB & SMA - Larry Panasiewicz  
SMP - Leroy Heath  
SMA - Brian Konieczko  
OLP - Thomas Faruggio  
SPA - Alan Krupski, Jeraldine Donati,  
Frances Rogowski

### **SANCTUARY LAMP - FEB. 22 - 28**

**SJB**

Carl Mathias | Dan & Monica Kubiak

**SPA**

Lt. Dan Widomski | Dee & Gerry



**Saturday, February 21** *St. Peter Damian*

4:00 pm SJB - Craig Flading | The C's  
OLP - Anthony Distefano | Joann Blatner  
4:30 pm SPA - John & Joan Wierzbicki | Estate  
5:00 pm SMP - 11th Wedding Anniversary of Patrick & Melissa Mudd  
7:00 pm SMA - Horace Battaglia | Daughter Brenda

**Sunday, February 22** *1st Sunday of Lent*

8:00 am SJB - Jean Thoms | Kellner Family  
SMP - Anna Glaub | Glaub Family  
9:00 am SPA - Edward & Bertha Nowicki | Ken & Joyce Grzelewski  
9:30 am OLP - Living & Deceased Members of the Mondia & Noble Families | Everett Family  
10:00 am SMP - Dorothy Gwarek | Family  
SMA - Jeanne & Roy Smith | Gilbert Nix  
11:00 am SJB - Matthew John Prout | Grandma Prout, Uncle Dean & Aunt Cheryl  
SPA - James Kent | Steven, Timothy & Christopher Kent  
11:30 am OLP - Ed Wojtasiewicz | Family  
Noon SMA - George Stilb | Narletta Kaull

**Monday, February 23** *St. Polycarp*

8:30 am SMP - Michael Hottum | Ann Wall  
9:00 am SPA - Richard Wier | Barbara Wier  
12 Noon SMA - Jim Bohin | Lance & Amy Ceyea  
7:00 pm SJB - Repose of the Soul of Lucy Banas | Michelle

**Tuesday, February 24**

8:15 am SMP - Reggie Ferguson | Bob Braun  
8:30 am SJB - John & Dorothy Hamm | Jeff Hamm  
9:00 am SPA - Andrew Le Beau | Mary Murphy  
12 Noon SMA - Physical and Spiritual Healing for Nina Paul

**Wednesday, February 25**

8:15 am SMP - Louis Fiorello | James & Susan Rieck  
8:30 am SJB - Birthday Blessings for Katherine | Mom & Dad  
9:00 am SPA - Jim Kent | Jim & Caroline Calamita  
12 Noon SMA - All Souls in Purgatory | Craig Allen

**Thursday, February 26**

8:15 am SMP - Frederick J. Steck, Sr. | Debbie Steck  
8:30 am SJB - All Souls in Purgatory  
9:00 am SPA - Bob Sielski | Tennis Friends  
12 Noon SMA - All Souls in Purgatory | Craig Allen

**Friday, February 27** *St. Gregory of Narek*

8:15 am SMP - Irene & Alexander Molenda | Family  
8:30 am SJB - Birthday Blessings for Greyson | Babcia & Papa  
12 Noon SMA - Ester, Charles, Bruce & Curtis Allen & Family | Craig Allen  
SPA - All Souls; The Parishioners of the BDCL Family of Parishes

**Saturday, February 28**

4:00 pm SJB - Lino W. Cometto I | Wife, Alvina  
OLP -  
4:30 pm SPA - Paul Prusakowski | Diane Hardick  
5:00 pm SMP - Bill Kenney | Suzanne Kaminski  
7:00 pm SMA - Ester, Charles, Bruce & Curtis Allen & Family | Craig Allen

**Sunday, March 1** *2nd Sunday of Lent*

8:00 am SJB - Linda Forti | Kellner Family  
SMP - Deceased Members of the Knights of St. John  
9:00 am SPA - Timothy Kopp | St. Philip's Social Club  
9:30 am OLP -  
10:00 am SMP - Members of the Altar & Rosary Guild  
SMA - Angeline & George Rath | Family  
11:00 am SJB - Faith Formation Families  
SPA - Benjamin Dunning | St. Philip's Ladies Club  
11:30 am OLP -  
Noon SMA - Craig Pautler | Paula Gilbert

# LENT WITH THE BDCL

*"I have called you by name: you are mine." — Isaiah 43:1*

You are known, loved, and never forgotten. Bring your weakness, your weariness, your whole heart. God meets you there, renews you, and draws you closer this Lent. The best way to connect is through prayer.



## Pray with Us

**Free Events & Challenges | No Registration | Open to Anyone**

### Stations of the Cross *Fridays in Lent*

6 pm St. Philip the Apostle  
7 pm St. John the Baptist  
7 pm St. Mary of the Assumption (both)  
Hill Campus  
Our Lady of Pompeii Campus  
7:30 pm St. Martha

### Daily Lenten Rosary

Mon. - Fri. at Noon (2/19 - 4/1)  
St. Martha Church

Live Stream:  
[youtube.com/@stmarthadepew](https://youtube.com/@stmarthadepew)

### Lenten Penance Services

*A prayerful opportunity to receive God's mercy before Easter. Regularly scheduled confession times continue throughout Lent (see page 9).*

**March 23 – St. John the Baptist**

**March 25 – St. Martha**

3:00 pm & 7:00 pm both days

### Pray 40 (Adult), Kids Lent, Teen Lent

Pray along this Lent with the Family on the Hallow app or Hallow.com. Scan the code to download!

### Soup & Scripture

2/26, 3/5, 3/12, 3/26  
5:30 pm Soup & Bread | 6:15 pm Scripture  
St. Mary of the Assumption Hill Campus  
Parish Center

If you've never come, make this your year! Fr. Paul Stellar offers us reflections on the Church Liturgical Year and the Gospel of Matthew.

### Lenten Gospel Reading Challenge

Packet available at St. Martha Church

From Ash Wednesday through Holy Saturday (excluding Sundays), read the Gospels at home using our guide.

## Daily Lenten Prayer for all ages

Hallow



Join our family page for FREE!  
For a premium membership,  
pay only \$1.00 per year.  
Scan the QR code to sign up  
or head on to: [hallow.com/parish](https://hallow.com/parish)  
Enter 14086 as the zip code and  
select the BDCL Family name to join.

### Lenten Fish Fry

Every Friday of Lent | Drive-Thru Only  
4:00–7:00 pm | **St. Martha Parking Lot**

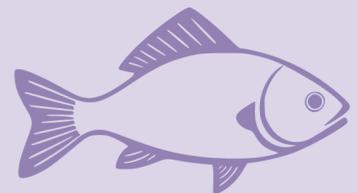
**Beer-Battered Fish Fry – \$16** | Macaroni salad • coleslaw • fries • bread

**Kids Meal – \$7** | Mac & cheese • fries • applesauce

**Homemade Clam Chowder – \$6**

No reservations • Pay as you pick up

Proceeds benefit St. Martha Parish & Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament School



FREE EVENT | NO REGISTRATION | OPEN TO ALL

**MARCH  
2 & 3, 2026**

6:00PM | OUR LADY OF POMPEII

THE  NE

LIVE EVENT EXPERIENCE

**PRESENTATION BY:**

- GREG WASINSKI

**MUSICAL GUEST**

- CARRIE FORD

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*Our Lady of Pompeii Church  
(Refreshments after in  
Ministry Center)*

[WWW.FAITHANDREALLIFE.COM](http://WWW.FAITHANDREALLIFE.COM)

Come for one night or both — bring a friend and grow this Lent.



**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**SPA Ladies Club**

Feb. 23 at 6:30 pm  
St. Philip the Apostle Parish Center

Ladies of the Family are invited to join us for an evening of fellowship and a speaker from the West Seneca Lions Club.

**Alzheimer's Association Support Group**

Feb. 24 at 6 pm  
St. Philip the Apostle Parish Center

Support group for caregivers of Alzheimer's or dementia patients. No registration. Meetings continue - 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday every month.

**SAINT JOSEPH'S DAY**

*Beloved Disciples  
Christ Lord*  
Roman Catholic Family of Parishes

*Table*



Everyone is invited to this free family event! If you like to participate in the potluck, we ask if you can bring a dish to pass that consists of a dessert or fruit; salad or vegetable dish; or a meatless main dish casserole or pasta.

**Thursday, March 19  
at 6:00pm**

**St. Mary's Parish Center**  
2 St Mary's Hill, Lancaster, NY 14086

So we can plan accordingly, let us know if you will be attending by **March 1, 2026** by either by scanning the **QR code** or calling St. Mary's rectory at **683-6445**.



# GROWING TOGETHER

*A Weekly Faith Challenge*

In today's Gospel, Jesus reminds us that He has not come to abolish the law, but to fulfill it. He calls us beyond outward actions to a deeper conversion of heart — shaping how we think, speak, and love.

*When we open ourselves to Him,  
He gently transforms us from within.*



This week's challenge:  
Take a quiet moment and ask the Lord,

***"Where are You inviting me to grow right now?"***

Maybe it's in patience, honesty, forgiveness, or making more space for prayer. Choose just one area, and take a small step forward with God's help. Even a small yes can open your heart to the deeper work He wants to do in you.



*Msgr. Richard Siepka  
Our Pastor*

## Faces of the Family

Join the Kromer Sisters in our new BDCL Family video series

Kromer Sisters Intro & First interview with Fr. Rich out now!



@BDCLFamily

# FAITH IN ACTION



## WORKS OF MERCY

February 7–9, 92 Faith Formation families gathered for our monthly A Family of Faith catechesis sessions. Families explored the meaning of Lent, reflected on the Triduum, and learned about the Theological Virtue of Hope. Living out their faith, they prepared 953 sandwiches for St. Luke's Mission of Mercy to help feed those in need. We are grateful for the faith, generosity, and servant hearts of our families.



## THANK YOU

With thankful hearts, our family thanks the Our Lady of Pompeii / St. Mary's Community for your kindness, generosity, and prayers. During unexpected medical and housing challenges, your support lifted a burden we could not carry alone. Through you, we have felt God's grace and steady presence. Your love and compassion have left a lasting impact on our family and our faith. We will always be deeply grateful. Tim, Marnie, Tyler & Mason Salvatore

# PUZZLE

What letter **begins** each picture name? Circle the beginning letter. Then color the pictures.



R B E



O U M



A N G

## WEEKLY PRAYER

### *Lenten Blessing*

Bless us in Your mercy, Lord, as we enter these 40 Days of Lent. Use this time to call, anoint, bind, strengthen, and inspire us anew. Like a good shepherd, teach us Your voice, and give us the strength to follow. Amen.

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## VOCATIONS REFLECTION

*Fr. David Baker*

Lent is here - time to challenge ourselves to be holier. This year, don't just give something up - start a new life in ministry! Visit [buffalovocations.org](http://buffalovocations.org)

# FAITH BUILDERS

## WEEKLY READINGS

### **SUNDAY**

Gn 2:7-9; 3:1-7  
Ps 51:3-4, 5-6, 12-13, 17  
Rom 5:12-19 or 5:12, 17-19  
Mt 4:1-11

### **MONDAY**

Lv 19:1-2, 11-18  
Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 15  
Mt 25:31-46

### **TUESDAY**

Is 55:10-11  
Ps 34:4-5, 6-7, 16-17, 18-19  
Mt 6:7-15

### **WEDNESDAY**

Jon 3:1-10  
Ps 51:3-4, 12-13, 18-19  
Lk 11:29-32

### **THURSDAY**

Est C:12, 14-16, 23-25  
Ps 138:1-2ab, 2cde-3, 7c-8  
Mt 7:7-12

### **FRIDAY**

Ez 18:21-28  
Ps 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-7a, 7bc-8  
Mt 5:20-26

### **SATURDAY**

Dt 26:16-19  
Ps 119:1-2, 4-5, 7-8  
Mt 5:43-48

### **NEXT SUNDAY**

Gn 12:1-4a  
Ps 33:4-5, 18-19, 20, 22  
2 Tm 1:8b-10  
Mt 17:1-9



## UPCOMING SECOND COLLECTION

### March 8 - Black & Indian Missions

Your support helps sustain Catholic ministries serving Black and Native American communities throughout our country—bringing the Gospel, forming leaders, and strengthening parishes where resources are limited. Thank you for helping the Church's mission continue to grow.

## STEWARDSHIP REPORT

WEEK OF 2/8

### St. John the Baptist

Regular: \$6,970.26  
OSV: \$1,136.75  
Fuel: \$45  
Snow Removal: \$115  
Maintenance: \$20  
Cemetery: \$10  
Solemnity of Mary: \$150  
Catholic Relief Services: \$52

### St. Martha

Regular: \$5,599  
Loose: \$548  
Online: \$2,369  
Coughlin Fund: \$12  
40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary: \$151  
Catholic Relief Services: \$52  
Solemnity of Mary: \$10  
Poland: \$22

### St. Mary of the Assumption

#### Hill Campus

Regular: \$4,487  
Loose: \$788  
CPL: \$9,487.78  
Fuel: \$10  
Special Projects: \$55  
Catholic Relief Services: \$20

#### Our Lady of Pompeii Campus

Regular: \$4,735  
Split Club: \$15  
Rockstars for Jesus: \$20

### St. Philip the Apostle

Regular: \$10,459.32  
Loose: \$578  
Online: \$4,235.75  
Ash Wednesday: \$50  
All Saints: \$1  
Catholic Relief Services: \$28  
Europe/Poland: \$5  
Easter Flowers: \$20  
Magazine: \$5



**Give Online**

**An Event "Knot" to be Missed...**

## ST. JOHN'S ANNUAL ALUMNI BASKET RAFFLE

# PRETZEL PALOOZA

**Friday, April 17**  
**School Gym**

Doors: 6 pm  
Drawings: 7:30 pm

**\$5 Admission**  
Limited Seating | Age 13+  
BYO Snacks & Drinks

**Basket Raffle**  
**\$5 for sheet of 25**

**Cash Drawings**

**Large Prize Raffles**

**Reservations Required by 4/10**  
**Call/Text Michelle @ 716-870-1035**



**St. John the Baptist School**  
2028 Sandridge Rd.  
Alden



## THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY

*We are deeply grateful for your continued generosity through the weekly collection, individual donations, and support of parish fundraisers. Your faithful giving helps sustain parish operations, support ministries, and strengthen the programs and outreach that serve our community. Because of your generosity, our parishes remain active, welcoming, and alive. All gifts remain with your parish or help support the needs of our Family of Parishes.*



## DEVOTIONS

### **ADORATION** *(Holy Days Subject to Changes)*

St. John the Baptist

First Fridays 9am – 5pm & Mondays 7:30pm – 8:30pm

St. Martha

Mon.–Fri. 9 am – 3pm (Chapel)

First Fridays 9 pm – 10pm (Church)

St. Mary of the Assumption

Hill Campus First Fridays 12:30 – 2:30pm

Our Lady of Pompeii Campus

First Fridays Noon – 6 pm

St. Philip the Apostle

Last Tues. (May–Oct) 6:30 – 7:30pm

### **CONFESSION** *All are welcome. No appointment.*

St. John the Baptist Sat. 3 – 4:00pm

St. Martha Sat. before 5pm Mass

St. Mary of the Assumption

Hill Campus Sat. 6 – 6:30pm

Our Lady of Pompeii Campus Sat. 3 – 3:30pm

St. Philip the Apostle Sat. 3:30 – 4pm

## SACRAMENTAL

### **BAPTISMS**

Please contact your Rectory. A class is required every three years.

### **WEDDINGS**

Preparations begin at least six months prior to the wedding date. Please contact your Rectory.

### **HOLY COMMUNION**

#### ***Homebound or Sick Parishioners***

Please contact your Parish Rectory.

#### ***Low Gluten Hosts***

Please see an Usher before Mass for direction.

### **CARE IN TIMES OF ILLNESS**

During Office Hours: Please contact your Rectory.

After Office Hours:

St. John the Baptist: 716-937-6959 x 113

St. Martha: 716-684-6342 x 202

St. Mary of the Assumption Hill Campus & Our Lady of Pompeii Campus, St. Philip the Apostle:

716-668-8370 x 9

Anointing of the Sick: For serious illness, surgery, or advanced age; offers healing, strength, and peace.

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## OUR PARISHES

### **ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST (SJB)**

2021 Sandridge Rd., Alden, NY 14004

(716) 937-6959 | stjohndalden.com

Office: Tue–Thurs, 8:30am–1:30pm

 @StJohnsChurchAldenNY

### **ST. MARTHA (SMP)**

10 French Rd., Depew, NY 14043

(716) 684-6342 | stmarthadepew.org

Office: Mon–Fri, 9am–4pm (Closed Noon–1pm)

Food Pantry: (716) 206-0387

Live Stream: youtube.com/@stmarthadepew

All Masses

 @stmarthadepew

### **ST. PHILIP THE APOSTLE (SPA)**

950 Losson Rd., Cheektowaga, NY 14227

(716) 668-8370 | spaparish.org

Office: Mon–Wed, 9:30am–2:30pm

or by appointment

Live Stream: stphiliptheapostleparish.org/live-stream/

All Masses

 @stphilipwny

### **ST. MARY OF THE ASSUMPTION**

#### **HILL CAMPUS (SMA)**

1 St. Mary's Hill, Lancaster, NY 14086

(716) 683-6445 | stmarysonthehill.org

Office: Mon - Fri, 9am - 4pm

Live Stream: stmarysonthehill.org/mass-live-stream/

Daily at 12 noon and Sunday at 10:00am

  @SMALancaster

#### **OUR LADY OF POMPEII CAMPUS (OLP)**

129 Laverack Ave., Lancaster, NY 14086

Live Stream: youtube.com/@olplivestream1382

All Weekend Masses

 @ourladyofpompeii Lancaster

#### **ST. JAMES CHURCH (SJC)**

496 Terrace Blvd., Depew, NY 14043

*Bulletin submissions due by Friday at Noon,  
one week before the published Sunday.  
Submit to your Rectory.*

@BDCLFamily  
BDCLFamily.org



## STAFF INFORMATION

Pastor: Msgr. Richard W. Siepka  
[frich@bdclfamily.org](mailto:frich@bdclfamily.org)

Senior Parochial Vicar: Rev. Bart Lipiec  
Rev. Lukasz Kopala  
[kopalalukasz@gmail.com](mailto:kopalalukasz@gmail.com)

In Residence: Rev. Paul Steller

Deacons: John Hendricks, Matt Hens,  
John Owczarczak, Jim Trzaska

Business/Finance Director: Anne Pomaski  
[apomaski@bdclfamily.org](mailto:apomaski@bdclfamily.org)

## SCHOOLS

Schedule a tour — contact the school office.

Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament PreK - 3rd  
20 French Rd. Depew, NY 14043  
716-685-2544 | [olbsdepew.org](http://olbsdepew.org)

St. John the Baptist PreK3 - 8th  
2028 Sandridge Rd. Alden, NY 14004  
716-937-9483 | [stjohnsalden.com](http://stjohnsalden.com)

St. Mary of the Assumption PreK3 - 8th  
2 St. Mary's Hill Lancaster, NY 14086  
716-683-2112 | [smeschool.com](http://smeschool.com)

## FAITH FORMATION

St. John the Baptist  
716-937-6959 x103  
[faith.formation@stjohnsalden.org](mailto:faith.formation@stjohnsalden.org)

St. Martha  
716-685-2546  
[jszpylman@stmarthadepew.org](mailto:jszpylman@stmarthadepew.org)

St. Mary of the Assumption  
716-683-8564  
[becky@stmarysonthehill.org](mailto:becky@stmarysonthehill.org)

St. Philip the Apostle  
716-668-8370 x502  
[spareled@spaparish.org](mailto:spareled@spaparish.org)

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Family of Parishes, Schools,  
Faith Formation, or to register at  
one of our Parishes



10

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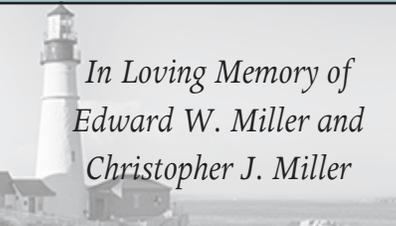
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