

LITURGIES FOR THE WEEK

Sunday, Feb 12, 2017 – **Septuagesima Sunday**

- **9:30 AM - Holy Mass**
+ **Elizabeth Boyk** (53rd Anniversary of death) – requested by Leon Boyk

Monday, Feb 13, 2017 - **Weekday**

Tuesday, Feb 14, 2017 - **Weekday**

Wednesday, Feb 15, 2017 - **Weekday**

Thursday, Feb 16, 2017 – **Weekday**, 64th Anniversary of death, sp. Prime Bishop Francis Hodur

Friday, Feb 17, 2017 – **Weekday**

Saturday, Feb 18, 2017 - **Weekday**

Sunday, Feb 19, 2017 – **Sexagesima Sunday**

- **9:30 AM - Holy Mass**

LAST WEEK COLLECTION: \$ 210.00

FAITH SHARING

Today's readings challenge us to choose freely and wisely to observe the laws given by a loving and caring God. He revealed His laws to His Chosen People through Moses and the prophets in the Old Testament, and through His own Son, Jesus, in the New Testament. For the Israelites, the Torah was not a set of laws but the instruction or *teaching* intended to promote the holiness and wholeness of each believer. It was the revealed will of a caring God, for the people with whom had He made His covenant. Jesus says that he did not come to destroy the Torah but to bring it to perfection by bringing out its inner meaning because he is the ultimate Self-revelation of God the Law-Giver. Jesus also explains the real meaning of three Mosaic laws concerning murder, adultery and false oaths.

MAY GOD BLESS OUR PARISH

Christians have long chosen the names of saints to proclaim their link with their spiritual family, the Church.

Years ago our ancestors in Philadelphia dedicated our church to God and named our parish "St. Valentine's", making St. Valentine our Patron Saint.

Since that time he is our patron saint that we should pray and have a special devotion.

Celebrating St. Valentine's Day we wish God's Blessing to all our Parishioners and to our Friends. Through the intercession of our heavenly patron, St. Valentine, may you know the grace of the Father, the love of Christ, the power of the Spirit in a profound and present way.

ST. VALENTINE'S PAINTING IN OUR CHURCH

Each Sunday during Mass we can see in our church the picture of St. Valentine located in the main altar. Do we know its story? Who is the artist who painted this icon for us? His name is Joseph A. Janczuk.



His family have been members of our church since 1928, long before his birth in 1947. Awarded a scholarship from the City of Philadelphia, he was educated at Temple University's Tyler School of Art. Since graduating, he has pursued a dual career as artist and as teacher of art. His works have been exhibited locally and nationally, and he has been the recipient of numerous awards.

The story of St. Valentine's martyrdom begins with the Emperor Claudius issuing a decree forbidding people to marry. Marriage kept men at home, and Claudius wanted them as soldiers to fight for Rome. Valentine ignored this decree and invited young lovers to come to him in secret to be united with the blessing of the Church. The secret

marriages were discovered, and the Emperor commended Valentine to be thrown into prison and later executed. One story says that, while in prison, he attempted to restore the sight of the blind daughter of the prison keeper, Asterius, whom he had befriended. Asterius promised to become Christian if Valentine performed this miracle.

Our painting shows St. Valentine performing the miracle of the restoration of the sight of Asterius's daughter.

The symbolism inherent in some of the elements of the painting is: the large gold medallion with the letters HIS symbolize Christ; the light of Christ is being cast onto the blind child in a beam of light; the little girl's left hand holds a cloth symbolizing the removal of her blindness. The figure behind the child is of that of the prison-keeper, her father, Asterius. The figure of St. Valentine is giving the blessing through the position of his left hand, while his right hand holds a palm frond symbolizing his martyrdom. The nimbus, or halo, above St. Valentine indicates his sainthood. The background reinforces the intensity of the light of Christ.

ST. VALENTINE'S DAY BRUNCH

We are inviting everyone to attend St. Valentine's Day brunch on Sunday, February 12, after mass in parish hall. Tickets (\$10 a platter donation) will be available at the door.

St. Valentine, Patron Saint of our Parish is a patron of lovers. Do you love your parish? If yes, please come for St. Valentine's Day brunch to support your faith community. Don't come alone. Please bring your friends with you. Your presence is very important to your parish. Your Presence is your donation to your parish. Thank you!

BRING YOUR OLD PALM

Do you still have your palm from last year Palm Sunday? Please bring it and place it in the sacristy. We burn the palm of last year's Palm Sunday and will be using the ashes on this year Ash Wednesday.

MASS INTENTIONS AVAILABLE

Almost all Sundays of this year are open for Mass intentions. If you want to order a Holy Sacrifice of the Mass in our parish please call parish office (215-535-4978) or mail your request to 2330 Margaret St, Philadelphia, PA 19137, or email it to stvalentinespncc@gmail.com

Holy Mass is not only reserved for repose of the soul but it can be offered for any person and any intention, for example your wedding anniversary, birthday, special blessing for your children or grandchildren, special blessing for your family etc.

CEMETERY IMPORTANT REMINDER

Please Remove all Christmas ornaments/decorations from cemetery by February 15, 2017. Thank you.

ST. VALENTINE'S PARISH

Polish National Catholic Church

2330 Margaret St, Philadelphia, PA 19137, (215) 535-4978



Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets. I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. (Matthew 5: 17)

Nie sądzicie, że przyszedłem znieść Prawo albo Proroków. Nie przyszedłem znieść, ale wypełnić. (Mt 5, 17)

Septuagesima Sunday

February 12, 2017