

# OUR LADY OF VICTORY CATHOLIC CHURCH

820 WESTERLY PARKWAY, STATE COLLEGE, PA 16801



## MASS SCHEDULE

### Sunday Masses

Saturday: 5:00pm  
Sunday: 7:30am, 9:30am,  
11:30am

### Weekday:

Mon : 8:00am Mass  
Tue.: 8:00am Comm. Svc.  
Wed.: 8:00am Mass  
Thurs.: 8:00am Mass  
6:30pm Mass  
Fri.: 8:00am Mass  
Sat. 9:00am Mass

**Confessions**—see inside

### Adoration of Blessed

**Sacrament** takes place after  
8:00am Mass **Tuesday &  
Thursdays.** (See inside for  
this week).

### Rosary:

Tues., Wed. & Sat.: 8:25am,  
Mon., Thur. & Fri: 7:25am



### First Saturday

**Rosary:** Seven  
Sorrows Rosary  
sponsored by CDA  
after 9:00am Mass. All are  
welcome.

The Church is open Monday -  
Sunday 7:00am to 8:00pm.

**OLV Online Giving:** go to  
[www.ourladyofvictory.com](http://www.ourladyofvictory.com)  
and click on the link  
<https://abundant.co/olvsc>  
to give online.

- Text Giving: Text OLVSC  
to 73256.

- Use the Abundant App,  
which you can download on  
your smartphone.

- Scan QR code



You are now  
able to give to  
School,  
Maintenance,  
Twin Parish  
Mission, Debt  
Reduction,  
Christmas & Easter online.

February 21 & 22, 2026  
1st Sunday of Lent



### Stations of the Cross

are held on Fridays  
at 6:00pm in the  
Church during Lent.

Office Phone

814-237-7832

Office Fax

814-237-6709

Church Website:

[www.ourladyofvictory.com](http://www.ourladyofvictory.com)

Church E-mail:

[office@ourladyofvictory.com](mailto:office@ourladyofvictory.com)

School

814-238-1592

Preschool

814-238-6616

School/Preschool Website

[www.olvcatholicschool.org](http://www.olvcatholicschool.org)

Diocesan Website

[www.ajdiocese.org](http://www.ajdiocese.org)

OLV Prayer Network

[prayer@ourladyofvictory.com](mailto:prayer@ourladyofvictory.com)

Flocknote: Are you missing out on important announcements from Our Lady of Victory. This is the quickest and most effective way to get up-to-date OLV news to you. If you are not getting flocknote emails, we may not have your email address on record at the Church. To sign up, go to <https://ourladyofvictory10.flocknote.com/OLVParishioner>.

**Parish Staff - (814) 237-7832**

Pastor, Fr. George Jakopac gjakopac@dioceseaj.org  
Deacon David Lapinski dclfl@ourladyofvictory.com  
Secretary, Betty Gummo  
Secretary, Diane Lapinski  
Director of Development, Chris Kirkpatrick  
Director of OCIA, Deacon David Lapinski  
Director of Religious Education, Susan Ishmael  
Director of Music, Joe Malafarina  
Principal, Samantha Weakland - (814) 238-1592  
Pre-School Director, Anne Bord - (814) 238-6616

**Secretaries' Office Hours:** Mon.-Fri., 8:30 to Noon, 1-4pm.

**Bulletin Notice**

Material to be published in the following week's bulletin should be on Diane's desk no later than **Monday, 9:00am.**

**Baptism**

Sundays, 1:00pm, with arrangements having been made previously by contacting Diane.

**Marriage**

Diocesan Regulations require nine months prior notice. Contact Betty, the Secretary.

**Sacrament of Penance:** Saturdays, 4:00-4:30pm and Thursdays at 5:30pm.

**Eucharistic Adoration:** Tuesdays and Thursdays following 8:00am Mass, Reposition Tuesday at 4:00pm and Thursday at 6:30pm.

**Feb. 15 Collection:** Envelope \$23,455.00; Loose \$2,299.00; Online Giving \$8,741.83; Maintenance \$61.00; Twin Parish Mission \$200.00; Debt Reduction \$45.00; Candles \$233.00; Donuts \$61.00; Heat & Utilities \$245.00; St. Vincent De Paul \$520.00; Total \$35,860.83.

**Hospital Stay** - Call the Church Office at 237-7832 if you are or will be a patient at Mount Nittany Medical Center and wish the Eucharist brought to you. This facility does not notify us, so you or your family must call the church.

**The Marian Gift Shop** in the Activities Center is open on Sundays, 10:00am to 11:15am or by appointment. Contact Rose Marboe at 814-883-4446 to shop other days. Proceeds from the gift shop benefit Religious Education at OLV.

**Rice Bowls and Lenten Word Among Us** are available in the Gathering Space.

**Crochet** meets on the first and third Mondays at 6:30pm in the OLV Activities Center Library.

**MASS MEMORIALS and SCHEDULE**

**Monday, February 23**

8:00am - † Lorraine Teyssier by Peggy lerley & John & Gloria Yotka

**Tuesday, February 24**

8:00am - Communion Service  
*Adoration ends at 4:00pm.*

**Wednesday, February 25**

8:00am - † Robert Smith by John & Mary Slaby

**Thursday, February 26**

8:00am - Ints. Bill & Nora Chyle by Tom & Karen Hauser  
6:30pm - † Anne Marie Hannon by The Ambersen Family  
*Confessions 5:30pm, Adoration ends at 6:30pm*

**Friday, February 27**

8:00am - † Doug Greer by The Venturino Family

**Saturday, February 28**

9:00am - Ints. Theresa Lieb 90th Birthday by David & Sharon Lieb  
5:00pm - † Pedro Antonio Crespi by The Cespedes-Butler Families

**Sunday, March 1**

7:30am - † Louise Theiller by Chris & Paula Latran  
9:30am - For All People of Parish  
11:30am - † Emil & Arlene Moglia by John & Joan Kittle

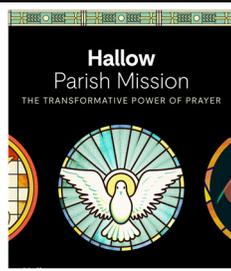


Are You or Someone You Know Interested in Becoming Catholic?

Are you an Adult who wishes to complete your Sacraments?

If you are interested, please email the Office of Christian Initiation of Adults:

[becomingcatholic@ourladyofvictory.com](mailto:becomingcatholic@ourladyofvictory.com)



**O.L.V. + Hallow:** We are starting a new prayer challenge for Lent, called **Lent Pray40: The Return.** Join Jonathan Roumie, Fr. Mike Schmitz, Mark Wahlberg, Chris Pratt, Mother Olga, Sister Miriam, Jeff Cavins, and more this Lent for Pray40 — a journey back home

to the Father with The Brothers Karamazov and the Return of the Prodigal Son by Fr. Henri Nouwen. We'll see how Dostoevsky's famous novel brings the Parable of the Prodigal Son to life like never before, showing us how we're all farther from God than we need to be. The good news is God is waiting for us each with open arms, running out to meet us while we are still a long way off. We'll step into the lives of the characters together and discover the ways their struggles and brokenness mirror our own. We'll let go of what holds us back, return home to the Lord, and let Him send us out as His hands and feet.

New to Hallow? Visit [hallow.com/parish](https://hallow.com/parish), search for our parish (zip code is fastest), and follow the prompts. You'll be given a special trial which gives access to all the app's premium content - if you'd like to forgo and remain on the free version, simply hit "Skip" and you'll have access to our parish page and the prayer challenge.

Issues with app access? Please contact [parishsupport@hallow.app](mailto:parishsupport@hallow.app).



**Rosie's Pierogies on Sale During**

**Lent:** Take out ONLY: Fridays during Lent (February 27, March 6, 13, 20 & 27). Cost is \$12.00 per dozen.

Options available: *Freshly made with butter and onions, frozen plain, frozen jalapeno or frozen bacon.* Sold in front of OLV Activities Center in a drive thru manner, from 3:00pm to 5:15pm or until sold out.

This is a great opportunity to earn community service hours. Volunteers of all ages are welcome. Please report at 2:30pm. For more information or questions, please contact Deacon Dave at [dcafl@ourladyofvictory.com](mailto:dcafl@ourladyofvictory.com).



**Living Stations:**

If you are still interested in participating in the Living Stations, please email Sue Clement, Living Stations

Coordinator at [sueseitzclement@hotmail.com](mailto:sueseitzclement@hotmail.com). Rehearsal dates are February 22, March 1, 5, 20, & 21 from 5:30-8:30pm in the School Gym. We are still in need of a few cast members and stage crew. We are also in need of a large fake rock (approximately 3 feet tall). Students will earn service hours for participating.

**Our Lady of Victory SCHOLARSHIP**  
FOR NEW SAINT JOSEPH'S STUDENTS

**Requirements:**

- Student enrolling in Fall 2026
- SJCA application submitted
- Family is registered at OLV Parish
- Simple application form submitted to OLV parish office

**APPLY TODAY**  
[www.stjoeacad.org](http://www.stjoeacad.org)

**Apply Now for OLV Parish Scholarship for NEW Saint Joseph's Students:**

Due to the generosity of the Our Lady of Victory Catholic Church parish community, OLV parish is offering Our Lady of Victory Parish Scholarships to students who are enrolling as NEW students (all grade levels) at Saint Joseph's Catholic Academy in the Fall 2026. For more information and to download the simple application form, go to <https://stjoeacad.org/admissions/olv-parish-scholarship/> Completed applications are due to the OLV parish office by Wednesday, May 13, 2026.

**Adult Catechesis** takes place from 10:35am-11:15am (between the 9:30am and 11:30am Masses) on Sundays in the Activities Center Assembly Room. All are welcome to attend, but we especially encourage CCD parents and post-CCD high school students to join us. You can attend as many or as few sessions as you like. **New attendees are always welcome.**

Upcoming schedule:

- Feb. 22: Last Things: Death, Judgement, and Purgatory
- March 1: Last Things: Hell
- March 8 & 15: No Meeting
- March 22: Last Things: Heaven

Please contact Roseanne McManus at [RMcManus1@yahoo.com](mailto:RMcManus1@yahoo.com) if you have any questions or to get on our email list.

**Select Formed Now!** Walk with Saint Mother Teresa through the season of Lent. To sign up for Formed, go to [Formed.org/signup](https://Formed.org/signup): enter our zip code (16801) and select Our Lady of Victory. The Formed app is available on Apple TV and Roku.



## Our Lady of Victory Catholic School

**Enrollment Now Open**

Our Lady of Victory Catholic School is a Middle States accredited school, providing quality education for children in preschool through 8th grade.

Our Lady of Victory Catholic School provides opportunities for students to excel in academics, athletics, fine arts, and other extracurricular activities. The environment, rooted in love, faith, dignity, and integrity, enables students to reach their potential as leaders and learn the skills they need to succeed at OLVCS and beyond.

814-238-1592 | [principal@olvcs.org](mailto:principal@olvcs.org) | [www.olvcatholicsschool.org/admission](http://www.olvcatholicsschool.org/admission)

OLV Walk-A-Thon \$5000 + Angelic Benefactor

OLV Walk-A-Thon \$2500 to \$4999 Seraphim Benefactor



A SPECIAL THANKS TO  
**Joe and Sue Rogacs**

A SPECIAL THANKS TO  
**The Vadella Tanner Family**

A SPECIAL THANKS TO  
**Matt and Theresa Heinz Family**



## Tickets On Sale!



**28**

**FEBRUARY 2026**

*Gather your friends, test your knowledge, and support OLVCS extracurricular programs!*

**DOORS OPEN AT 6:30PM**  
**TRIVIA STARTS AT 7:30PM**

Great Food | Live auction | Prize Raffles

**TABLES and INDIVIDUAL TICKETS AVAILABLE NOW!**  
Purchase at [www.olvcatholicsschool.org/trivia](http://www.olvcatholicsschool.org/trivia)

**OLVCS Trivia Night – Saturday, February 28, 2026** - Join us for OLVCS Trivia Night, our most fun event of the year! Gather your friends for an evening of great food, trivia, raffles, a wine pull, live auction, and exciting prizes — with even more surprises planned this year. Doors of the OLVCS Gymnasium open at 6:30 PM, and Trivia begins at 7:30 PM. Tickets are \$50 per person or \$350 for a table of 8. Tables are limited and selling quickly. Purchase tickets at: [www.olvcatholicsschool.org/trivia](http://www.olvcatholicsschool.org/trivia). Can't attend? We are gratefully accepting donations of bottles of wine and gift cards of any kind in any amount. Donations may be dropped off at the school office. All proceeds benefit OLVCS Athletics and the School Musical Programs.

St. Joseph Catholic Academy

## Enrollment is Open!

*Enroll by February 18th and get the \$50 fee waived!*





Schedule your tour today!  
(814) 808-6118  
[sjca@sjcademy.org](mailto:sjca@sjcademy.org)



College  
Prep

Competitive  
Teams

Faith-Based  
Learning

Vibrant  
School Spirit

Tuition  
Support

**SJCA LEO Students Glasses Drive:**  
The drive will run the month of February and boxes will be picked up the first week of March. Boxes can be found in the Gathering Space of the Church.

**Acceptable Eyeglasses for Donation:**

- Usable Glasses - Eyeglasses that are in good condition and can help correct vision
- Any Prescription Strength - Glasses with any prescription power are accepted
- Any Frame Style - All frame types and styles are welcome
- Unopened Contact Lenses - These can also be donated alongside eyeglasses

**Condition Requirements:**  
Lenses should be clean and free from major scratches or damage  
Frames should be intact and functional  
Glasses should be in a condition that allows them to be worn.

## Religious Education News

- CCD classes are held each Sunday morning from **10:30am - 11:20am**.
- New families can contact the DRE, Susan Ishmael, at [directorccd@ourladyofvictory.com](mailto:directorccd@ourladyofvictory.com) to register for classes.
- New Link to the CCD and Sacramental Prep calendar can be found on the new Religious Education website: <https://ourladyofvictory.com/religious-education/calendar/>
- CCD classes (K-9) will meet each week this month. There will be **no CCD class on 3/8/26** due to Spring Break. Classes resume 3/15/26.
- Second Grade Chalice painting will be coming up in February and March.  
Sunday, March 1: CCD students during CCD class-
- If anyone has any **First Holy Communion clothes** you would like to share with 2nd grade families, please bring them to CCD in the next few weeks or email Susan Ishmael at [directorccd@ourladyofvictory.com](mailto:directorccd@ourladyofvictory.com). Likewise, families that would like to see First Holy Communion clothes available, please see Susan during CCD or email her.
- High School students should also be working on completing their service hours (10 total).
- Catholic Relief Services (CRS) **Rice Bowls** are available from the DRE or in back of the Church. Please consider taking a bowl and returning it at the end of Lent.



## Middle School and High School Youth groups meet Thursdays at 7:00pm in the OLV Activities Center. For questions, please contact:

High School: Francis Baggett at: [highschoolyg@ourladyofvictory.com](mailto:highschoolyg@ourladyofvictory.com).

Middle School, please contact Molly Bosak at [middleschoolyg@ourladyofvictory.com](mailto:middleschoolyg@ourladyofvictory.com).

Audio Recordings of the Sunday Gospel Reading and Homily can be sent to you, by way of TEXT messaging, for shut-ins or general home listening. Simply TEXT a name (first name or alias is sufficient) and a TEN DIGIT cell-phone number to (717) 504 1091 to be added to the list of recipients.

For those suffering hearing loss, there are hearing assist devices available. Check one out of the sacristy (rear of the Church), before Mass.



## Saint Vincent de Paul Thrift Store: February Specials

- We have Winter Coats including a selection of Puffer Style
- Check out our large selection of Books at BOGO (Buy One, Get One) prices!
- Penn State Apparel available at special prices.

Have you ever thought about volunteering at the Thrift Store? We are looking for individuals to join our team. If you are interested in learning more, please call 814-867-3131 or stop by the store. The Thrift Store is open Monday through Saturday, 10:00am - 4:00pm. Donations are accepted Monday through Thursday, 10:00am – 3:30pm and Friday and Saturday, 10:00am – 1:00 pm ONLY.



Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion: One of your fellow ministers uses a special display for the Holy Eucharist when reciting the special prayers during a house call. If you think that you would like to use a similar display for your house-call(s), please let us know and you will be notified when your complimentary copy (pyx not included) is available for pickup at the church office. The display is “foldable” for easy compact transport.



Turn your personal or business PA. Income Taxes into OLV Scholarships: We Need Your Help! Many families and their children need tuition assistance to attend Our Lady of Victory Catholic Preschool thru Middle School. *Individuals/households* with an annual income of \$115,000 or PA personal income tax liability of \$3,500+ annually qualify to participate in the Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) Program. *Businesses* that qualify to get their taxes back are C-Corporations and owners of Subchapter S-Corporations, LLCs, LPs, LLPs and Partnerships. If you are in the position to help by directing your PA Income tax through the Educational Improvement Tax Credit EITC program to OLV, contact Chris Kirkpatrick: 814-237-7832, ext. 421 or [chrisk@ourladyofvictory.com](mailto:chrisk@ourladyofvictory.com).



### **Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament -**

"People who place themselves in front of the sun get a tan, while people who place themselves in front of the Eucharist become saints." - St. Carlo Acutis.

Consider spending some time with Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament! Adoration takes place on **Tuesdays** 8:30am to 4:00pm and **Thursdays**, 8:30am to 6:30pm. You can stop in for a visit or sign up to be a scheduled Adorer (we need coverage for the morning hours, especially from 11:00 AM to Noon). If you cannot commit to being scheduled every week at a specific time, consider volunteering to be a substitute for Adorers who cannot attend their scheduled time. Please contact the Church office at 814-237-7832 or email [office@ourladyofvictory.com](mailto:office@ourladyofvictory.com) to be added as a scheduled or substitute adorer.



### **Tune into WJVM 90.3-FM & WEJO 104.7 this Lent!**

The homilies of Bishop Robert Barron and many of his fellow bishops are featured on the "Heralds of Faith" program that airs weekdays at 9:40am and noon.

Allow WAOB's seasonal programming and prayers to accompany you throughout our first Lenten journey with Pope Leo & his shepherds. Tune into either of our two local stations, or visit [www.waob.org](http://www.waob.org) to stream the live broadcast or download the app. The website is also a valuable source of Catholic content, including daily meditations, the updated Liturgy of the Hours, saint biographies, and an audio archive of vocation stories. If your family/group would like to record a prayer during Lent, contact Sheryl Balkey at (814) 238-6288 or [voiceofdivinemercury@gmail.com](mailto:voiceofdivinemercury@gmail.com).

Our 501(c)(3) organization is volunteer-run and your tax-deductible donation may be mailed to: Voice of Divine Mercy, PO Box 862, State College, PA 16804-0862. Remember, we receive no direct funding from the local parishes or diocese, so your faithful support is vital to our evangelization effort.



### **Seven Sisters Apostolate UPDATE:**

THANK YOU to the 32 women who are being generous with their time and lifting up Fr. George, Bishop Mark Barchak, Deacon Dave and Jamey Darnell for the next 52 weeks. These men need our prayers and God will certainly bless the prayer warriors and we will see the fruit of their efforts in our parish. Our Blessed Mother is pleased with those who pray for our clergy in our parish and Diocese, for one hour, one day a week for 52 weeks of the year. Questions or want to know more about this, please contact Karen Kearney at [kearneyt1@comcast.net](mailto:kearneyt1@comcast.net) or 814-883-4588.



**Gabriel Project:** The Gabriel Project is a Pro-Life movement offering parish-based pastoral care to women in a crisis pregnancy. It

is the goal of the Gabriel Project to help such women with all their practical needs, as well as offering them unconditional love in an apostolate of friendship throughout their pregnancy. There is a need for baby hygiene products, baby laundry products (ALL FREE detergent), newborn clothes, onesies, sleepers, baby wipes, shampoo, etc., Due to liability, we cannot accept used toys, strollers, cribs, or baby formula. Thank you very much for your support for these families. For more info about the Gabriel Project, please call 814-867-5511. For monetary donations, please place them in the Sunday collection, or mail them to Betty Gummo, c/o Our Lady of Victory Church, 820 Westerly Parkway, State College, PA 16801. Checks made out to "OLV/The Gabriel Project" (a 501c3 non-profit) can be used as a tax deduction.

If you are in need of Gabriel Project services, please call 814-867-5511 or 1-800-910-0191.



### **Women of Grace/Young Women of Grace:**

Do you want to increase your knowledge of who you are as a child of God? WOG and YWOG can help you to learn who you are in God's eyes so you can stand up against who the world tells you who you are to be. For us to learn the truth of who we are and the gift of their femininity.

We are hoping to start both of these in the New Year. Seek the truth and you shall find it. Help the young girls in your life to a great start. Anyone seeking more information please contact Karen Kearney at [kearneyt1@comcast.net](mailto:kearneyt1@comcast.net) or 814-883-4588.

**Sponsor of the Week:** Without advertisements in our bulletins from sponsors like the **ALPHA BRAVO REMODELING**, this bulletin could not be possible. Be sure to remember them when you need their services. If you would like to advertise in the weekly bulletin, please contact Mike McAleer, from LPi, our bulletin Printer at (412) 855-8013 or [mmcaleer@4lpi.com](mailto:mmcaleer@4lpi.com).

**Welcome Home!** Please email us at [Welcome-Home@ourladyofvictory.com](mailto:Welcome-Home@ourladyofvictory.com) to let us know if you are seeking to accompany someone in your life (or yourself) on a journey (back) toward the Catholic faith. We have compiled some suggestions for doing this. The link can be found on our home page at [www.ourladyofvictory.com](http://www.ourladyofvictory.com).



## Father O'Hanlon Council #4678 State College Knights of Columbus

### **"Knights Notes" :**

Calendar of Events: Please check [www.kc4678.com](http://www.kc4678.com)

Council Meetings– 2nd & 4th Wednesdays, 7:00pm.

OLV Activities Center - Fr. O'Hanlon Room  
(basement) at 820 Westerly Parkway

Blood Donations: [redcrossblood.org/give.html/drive-results?ZipSponsor=16801](http://redcrossblood.org/give.html/drive-results?ZipSponsor=16801)

Knights - Church Sign/Misprint Jokes: You know it's gonna be a great lent when you have a fish FRIAR and a chip MONK."

**Want to be part of the brotherhood? Please ask a Knight or send an email to [info@kc4678.com](mailto:info@kc4678.com). COME AND SEE!**

On the Web:

K of C webpage: [www.kc4678.com](http://www.kc4678.com)

K of C Facebook: [www.facebook.com/KCCouncil4678](http://www.facebook.com/KCCouncil4678)

### **Sight & Sound Bus Trip To See "Joshua":**

Father Brian at St. John's, Bellefonte, will be hosting a bus trip to Sight and Sound in Lancaster to see Joshua live on stage. Experience one of the most redemptive stories of the Bible as it comes to life in this BRAND NEW original stage production. The bus trip is on Thursday, March 26, for the 11:00am showing. Travel will be by Fullington Trailways. We will be stopping after the show at Cracker Barrel in Harrisburg. The bus will be boarding in front of St. John's at 6:30am and returning at approximately 7:00pm. Cost of the trip is \$150.00 per person which includes show ticket and transportation. Meals will be on your own. All reservations and money must be received in St. John's parish office by Wednesday, February 25. Please note – no reservations will be accepted without payment, address and cell phone number. Space is limited. If you have any questions, please contact St. John's parish office at (814) 355-3134.

### **Day Trippers Travel of State College**

Wednesday, April 15, 2026 - One Day Private Fullington Bus Trip to Sight & Sound Theatre, Lancaster, Pa. Brand New Original Stage Production Show "Joshua." Dinner included at Famous Shady Maple. Deadline Date to register is Thursday, March 26. All-inclusive Package Senior price: \$235.00 to be paid at time of reservation. For flyers with information, please Email: [pkmcdonough@comcast.net](mailto:pkmcdonough@comcast.net)

**Job Seekers:** There are various openings available throughout the Altoona-Johnstown Diocese (including Principal at Our Lady of Victory School). Log on to [www.dioceseaj.org/careers](http://www.dioceseaj.org/careers) to see the openings and to apply.

**Vespers & Benediction:** Good Shepherd Catholic Church, 867 Grays Woods Blvd, will have Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament from 9:00am to 6:00pm, followed by Vespers & Benediction starting at 6:00pm on Wednesdays during Lent (Feb. 25, March 4, 11, 18 & 25). Vespers & Benediction will be presided by Deacons of our Diocese.

Feb. 25: Deacon David Lapinski, Our Lady of Victory, State College

March 4: Deacon Don Gibboney, Most Holy Trinity, Huntingdon

March 11: Deacon Jerry Neveling, SS. Peter & Paul, Philipsburg, PA

March 18: Deacon Chuck Williams, Holy Spirit, Lock Haven

March 25: Deacon Tom Boldin, St. John the Evangelist, Bellefonte



**First Sunday of Lent:** As we begin the beautiful and challenging season of Lent, our readings this week remind us why we need these 40 days so much. They also suggest a particular strategy we Christian stewards might take as we make the journey towards Easter, so that we arrive there as better disciples – more focused on Christ and His mission for us.

Our Gospel passage, from Matthew, shows us by the example of Jesus Himself one way that we can attain spiritual strength and grow to become more effective disciples and stewards. In this passage we find our Lord in the desert, fasting for 40 days and 40 nights. Like Adam and Eve, He is confronted by the evil one. But unlike our fallen parents, our Lord triumphs over the devil's lies and sends him slithering away. How did He do it? By knowing the Scriptures and by proclaiming them confidently, and by His perfect trust in the Father.

This Lent, let's embrace this 40-day spiritual reset. Let's commit to prayerfully studying the Scriptures. This could take the form of a daily family Gospel reflection, a few moments with the Psalms at the beginning of a lunch break, "fasting" from social media, or any other countless ways. As faithful stewards, we are called to prioritize our use of time to seek a relationship with our loving God. Let's get to know Him better by studying His word this Lent.