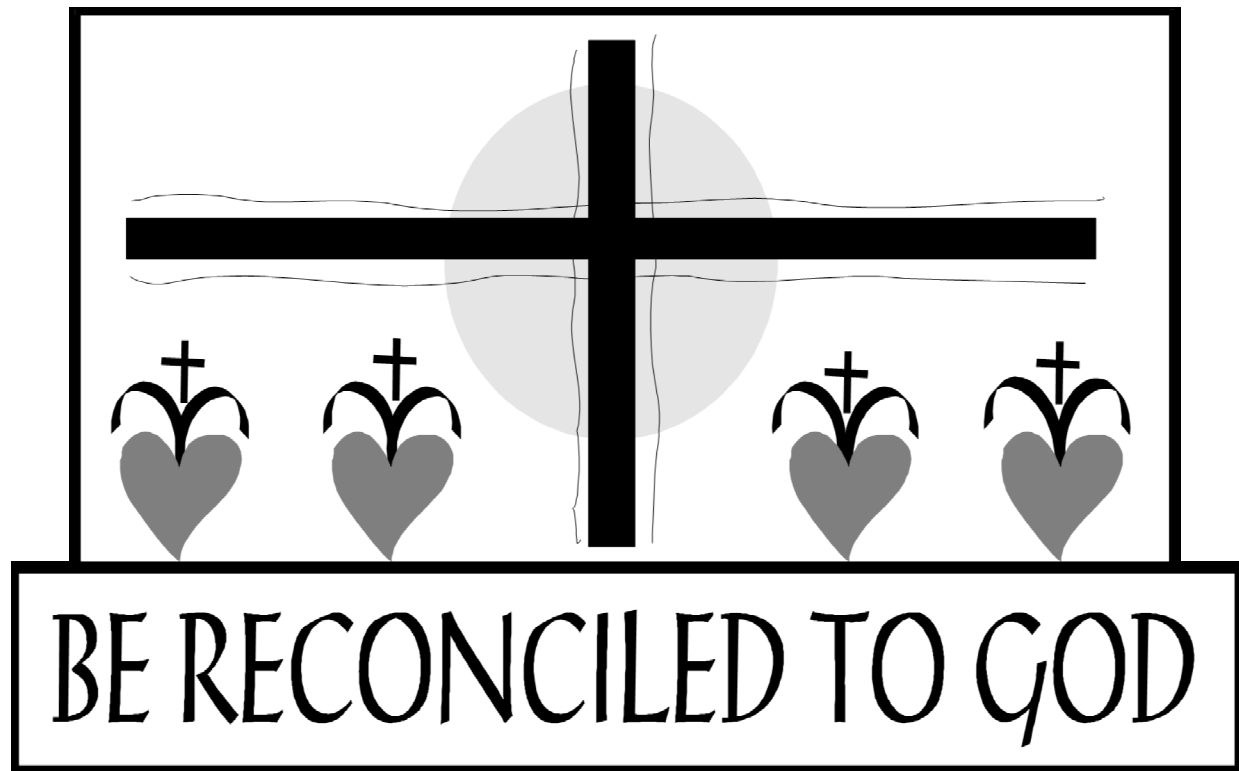


# THE IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY PARISH

March 6th, 2016 ~ Fourth Sunday of Lent



P O Box 307, Dushore, PA 18614  
Parish Office - 1 St. Francis Drive, Mildred, PA 18632  
(570) 928-8865 Fax (570) 928-7972  
Email - [ihmparish@frontier.com](mailto:ihmparish@frontier.com)  
Website - [ihmdushore.com](http://ihmdushore.com)

## **Our Pastoral Staff**

Parish Administrator - Reverend Richard Rojas  
Director of Religious Education - Mrs. Kathleen Clark  
Administrative Assistant - Ms. Diane Fowler  
Director of Liturgical Music - Mrs. Deborah Rojas

## **Mass Schedule**

### **Saturday**

4:00 PM St. Basil's Church, Dushore

### **Sunday**

7:30 AM St. Francis of Assisi Church, Mildred

9:30 AM St. Basil's Church, Dushore

## **The Sacrament of Reconciliation**

Saturdays - 3:15 – 3:45 PM St. Basil's Church, Dushore

Sundays - 6:45 – 7:00 AM St. Francis of Assisi Church, Mildred

Or by appointment

**A Welcoming Community:** You enter this Church ... not as stranger, but as a guest of God. He is your heavenly Father. Come, then, with joy in your heart and thanks on your lips into His presence, offering Him your love and service. Be grateful to the strong and loyal ones who, in the name of Jesus Christ, built this place of worship, and to all who have beautified it and hallowed it with their prayers and praise. Ask His blessing on those who love His house of faith as the inspiration of their labor, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit, and may that blessing rest on you, both in your going out and your coming in.

**Parish Registration:** You must be a registered member of The Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish to receive Baptism, Confirmation, First Penance, First Holy Communion, Marriage and to receive sponsor letters from the pastor.

**New Members:** Please stop by or call the parish office and register. (If you are leaving the parish, please notify the office before you leave). Thank you.

**Change of Address:** Please notify the parish office as soon as possible if you have had a change of address.

**Inactive Catholics:** As a welcoming parish, we ask every parishioner to ask God to put in your heart people whose hearts we need to reach out and touch with God's love. "Before you talk to men about God, you talk to God about men." Please, call, write, leave in an envelope in the collection the name, address and phone number of the person. Father would be delighted to meet with them.

#### SACRAMENTAL LIFE

**RCIA:** The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) is a process to bring non-Catholics into the faith. Anyone seeking information or interested in becoming a part of this community of faith can call the parish office.

**Sacrament of Baptism:** Baptisms are scheduled for the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays of the month following the 9:30 AM Mass. In order to understand and better appreciate this special sacrament, parents are required to attend the Pre-Baptismal Program, which is held on the last Saturday of each month at 7:00 PM in St. Basil's Rectory. Please contact the rectory to schedule your child's baptism.

**Sacrament of Marriage:** Couples contemplating marriage should notify the rectory at least six months prior to the date to allow necessary time for proper preparation.

**Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick:** Urgent calls will be attended to at any time of the day or night.

**Visitation of the Sick:** Please call the parish for visitation of the sick at home, in the hospital, or health care facility.

**Parish Mission Statement:** We, the Catholic faithful of The Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish, in union with our Holy Father, the Pope, and our Bishop, are called through Baptism to share in the ministry which Jesus Christ has entrusted to the One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church. As priest and lay faithful in a rural area, we utilize our energy to serve the spiritual needs of the Kingdom of God to promote a culture of life, justice, and peace to this generation and the generations that follow us.

#### Prayer to the Immaculate Heart of Mary

O Immaculate Heart of Mary, Heavenly beauty and splendor of the Father, you are the most valued Heavenly treasure.

New Eve, immaculate in soul, spirit and body, created of the godly seed by the Spirit of God, you are the spiritual Mother of mankind.

Pure Virgin, full of grace then and now, your whole being was raised Heavenly in full glory, to be elevated above all the hosts within the Kingdom of God.

O Heavenly Mother, Queen of Heaven and earth, I recognize the glory of your highest title, the Immaculate Heart of Mary!

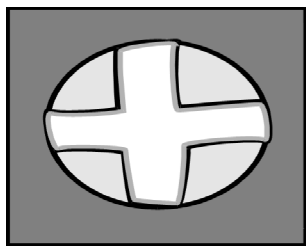
Loving Mother, dispenser of endless blessings, you who continually intercede on our behalf, please present my need before your loving Son, Jesus.

(Mention your request)

O Immaculate Heart of Mary, I know that you are now presenting my need before Jesus, for you have never turned away those in dire need.

Mother dearest, I await your favorable answer, submitting myself to the Divine will of the Lord, for all glories are His for ever and ever. Amen.

## Fourth Sunday of Lent Sunday, March 6th, 2016



If you are in  
**CHRIST**  
you are a new  
Creation

### Sunday Readings

**First Reading: Joshua 5:9a, 10-12**

Joshua and the Israelites celebrated Passover in Jericho. This was the first time they had eaten the produce of the promised land. After this, there was no more bread sent from heaven because they were able to eat the yield of the land.

**Responsorial Psalm: 34**

**Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 5:17-21**

Paul tells us that anyone living in Jesus is a new creation because God has reconciled with us through Christ. As an ambassador for Jesus, Paul implores that the Corinthians be reconciled to God through Jesus.

**Gospel: Luke 15:1-3, 11-32**

The Pharisees grew disgusted with Jesus because of his compassion toward sinners. So Jesus told them a story of a son who squandered his inheritance. When famine broke out, he returned home and asked his father to become a hired hand. His father instead welcomed him with joyful celebration, just as God is overjoyed when a sinner returns to him.

### *In Loving Memory*

*The Altar Candles in St. Basils & St. Francis  
Churches are burning in loving memory of  
Bernadette & Nathan Weaver by the Family*



*The Sanctuary Candle in St. Basil's Church is  
burning in loving memory of Father Joseph  
Hornick by Rosemary & Mary Finan*



### Altar & Rosary Society News

Our next meeting of the new year will be on Tuesday, March 8th at St Francis rectory in Mildred from 6:30 to 8 p.m. All are welcome!

## Fourth Sunday of Lent

"Coming to his senses at last he said: 'How many hired hands at my father's place have more than enough to eat, while here I am starving! I will break away and return to my father, and say to him, 'Father I have sinned against God and against you; I no longer deserve to be called your son. Treat me as one of your hired hands.'"

This parable of mercy is so familiar that we hear it without listening. Whether we focus on the rebellious son, the jealous brother, or the forgiving father we find that we can identify with each. Figure and learn much. We hear grunting pigs, smell the slop with which they are fed. We feel the despair and hunger pangs of the son. At a certain moment despair is transformed into hope. The father is watching and waiting. He becomes deaf to the prepared speech. Signs of forgiveness and acceptance abound—rings, sandals, coats, and especially fiesta. The reluctant brother cannot even enter but finds the father going to him as well.

The bottom line – Lent is a time to experience God's mercy and forgiveness. We can have a special moment come to our senses. We can rejoice that others have come home. We can be the source of forgiveness for someone who is hurting.

Half way through this season of renewal and personal hope, we too should wish to live these days in the words of Paul 'in Christ, as a new creation.' We are ambassadors for Christ, God appealing through us to be all three figures of the great parable. 'We implore you in Christ's name, be reconciled to God.'

### DAILY READINGS

**MONDAY~ Sts. of Perpetua and Felicity, Martyrs**

Is 65:17-21; Ps 30:2, 4-6, 11-12a, 13b; Jn 4:43-54

**TUESDAY ~ St. John of God, Religious**

Ez 47:1-9, 12; Ps 46:2-3, 5-6, 8-9; Jn 5:1-16

**WEDNESDAY ~ St. Frances of Rome Religious**

Is 49:8-15; Ps 145:8-9, 13c-14, 17-18; Jn 5:17-30

**THURSDAY**

Ex 32:7-14; Ps 106:19-23; Jn 5:31-47

**FRIDAY**

Wis 2:1a, 12-22; Ps 34:17-21, 23; Jn 7:1-2, 10, 25-30

**SATURDAY**

Jer 11:18-20; Ps 7:2-3, 9b-12; Jn 7:40-53

**SUNDAY~ FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT**

Is 43:16-21; Ps 126:1-6; Phil 3:8-14; Jn 8:1-11

### Winter Cemetery Decorations

All winter cemetery decorations must be removed by Sunday, March 20<sup>th</sup>. After that date, they will be removed by the cemetery workers.

## *Weekly Liturgical Celebrations*

### **Saturday, March 5**

3:15 ~ 3:45 PM **Dushore** Sacrament of Reconciliation

4:00 PM **Dushore** Gerard Richardson by Shirley  
Chrzanowski

### **Sunday, March 6**

6:45–7:00 AM **Mildred** Sacrament of Reconciliation

7:30 AM **Mildred** Joseph McMahon by Irene & Family

9:30 AM **Dushore** Mass for the People

### **Monday, March 7**

9:00AM **Dushore** Michael Taffe by Monica & Jimmy  
Hoodak

### **Tuesday, March 8**

9:00AM **Mildred** Helen Taylor by Norm Taylor

### **Thursday, March 10**

9:00AM **Mildred** Jack Charnitski by Lisa & Emery Smith

10:30AM **Highlands** Mary Potuck by Mr. & Mrs. Michael  
McMahon

### **Friday, March 11**

8:30AM **Dushore** Stations of the Cross

9:00AM **Dushore** Edward & Frances Burke Kelly by  
Edward M. Kelly

7:00PM **Mildred** Stations of the Cross

### **Saturday, March 12**

3:15 ~ 3:45 PM **Dushore** Sacrament of Reconciliation

4:00 PM **Dushore** Father Joseph Hornick by Jim &  
Melanie Lambert

### **Sunday, March 13**

6:45–7:00 AM **Mildred** Sacrament of Reconciliation

7:30 AM **Mildred** Mass for the People

9:30 AM **Dushore** Grace Bohensky by Megan & Andy



In the kindness of your prayers,  
please pray for the repose of the  
souls of **Josephine Gardner & Mary  
Eleanor McMahon**. As they shared in

the suffering of Christ, so may they now share in  
the glory of the risen Savior in heaven.

## **Chrism Mass**

All the faithful of the Diocese are invited to attend the Chrism Mass at the Cathedral of Saint Peter, Scranton, on Tuesday, March 22, 2016 at 4:00 pm. At this Mass priests from throughout the Diocese will renew their priestly promises before the Bishop, and the oils to be used for the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, Anointing of the Sick and Holy Orders will be blessed. Participation in the Chrism Mass is a beautiful way to pray for and support the priests of the Diocese.

## **From a sermon by Saint Peter Chrysologus, bishop**

*Prayer knocks, fasting obtains, mercy receives*

There are three things, my brethren, by which faith stands firm, devotion remains constant, and virtue endures. They are prayer, fasting, and mercy. Prayer knocks at the door, fasting obtains, mercy receives. Prayer, mercy, and fasting: these three are one, and they give life to each other.

Fasting is the soul of prayer, mercy is the lifeblood of fasting. Let no one try to separate them; they cannot be separated. If you have only one of them or not all together, you have nothing. So if you pray, fast; if you fast, show mercy; if you want your petition to be heard, hear the petition of others. If you do not close your ear to others you open God's ear to yourself.

When you fast, see the fasting of others. If you want God to know that you are hungry, know that another is hungry. If you hope for mercy, show mercy. If you look for kindness, show kindness. If you want to receive, give. If you ask for yourself what you deny to others your asking is mockery.

Let this be the pattern for all men when they practice mercy: show mercy to others in the same way, with the same generosity, with the same promptness, as you want others to show mercy to you.

Therefore, let prayer, mercy, and fasting be one single plea to God on our behalf, one speech in our defense, a threefold united prayer in our favor.

Let us use fasting to make up for what we have lost by despising others. Let us offer our souls in sacrifice by means of fasting. There is nothing more pleasing that we can offer to God, as the psalmist said in prophecy: *A sacrifice to God is a broken spirit; God does not despise a bruised and humbled heart.*

Offer your soul to God, make him an oblation of your fasting, so that your soul may be a pure offering, a holy sacrifice, a living victim, remaining your own and at the same time made over to God. Whoever fails to give this to God will not be excused, for if you are to give him yourself you are never without the means of giving.

To make these acceptable, mercy must be added. Fasting bears no fruit unless it is watered by mercy. Fasting dries up when mercy dries up. Mercy is to fasting as rain is to the earth. However much you may cultivate your heart, clear the soil of your nature, root out vices, sow virtues, if you do not release the springs of mercy, your fasting will bear no fruit.

When you fast, if your mercy is thin your harvest will be thin; when you fast, what you pour out in mercy overflows into your barn. Therefore, do not lose by saving, but gather in by scattering. Give to the poor, and you give to yourself. You will not be allowed to keep what you have refused to give to others.

**Our Weekly Parish Offertory Collection**  
**The Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish**  
**February 27th & 28th, 2016**

\$4,081.28

**Diocesan Annual Appeal**

\$375.00

*Thank you for your generosity!*

**March Second Collections**

March 6th & 7th~ Care & Education of Priests

March 12th & 13th~ Building & Maintenance

**Word of Life**

"The mercy of God is his loving concern for each one of us...he desires our wellbeing and he wants to see us happy, full of joy, and peaceful...Just as he is merciful, so we are called to be merciful to each other." -Pope Francis

**Patron of the Week**

*Finan Monuments*

*Please support our patrons on the back of the bulletin.*

**A Prayer for our Military**

God our Father, walk through my house and take away all my worries; and please watch over and heal my family. Heavenly Father, hold our troops in Your loving hands. Protect them as they protect us. Bless them and their families for the selfless acts they perform for us in this, our time of need. These things I humbly ask in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior. Amen.

Please pray for:

**Darrin J. Denmon,**

PMB 155; P O Box 30800, Honolulu, HI 96820

**PVT Stephen MacElhaney**

"Punisher" 5th Platoon 1-7bFABN

P.O. Box 35524

Wainwright, Alaska 99703

**Natalie Dymond**

9030 Moccasin Lake, San Antonio, Tx 78245

**RCT Sharif Welton**

1st RTBN PLT

1004 CO B, Box 16135, Parris Island, SC 29905

**Matthew J. Dailey**

114 East Cochran Ave, Unit 110

Clovis, NM 88101

**Air Force Captain Shawn M. McDonald**

145 Kings Highway; Apt 307

Dover, DE 19901

**Airforce SSGT Amber Adams**

**Liturgical Ministers for March 12 & 13**

**Special Ministers of Communion**

4:00 PM Dushore Jody Lambert

7:30 AM Mildred K. Bohensky

9:30 AM Dushore P. Minnier

**Lectors**

4:00 PM Dushore R. Green

7:30 AM Mildred S. Moyer

9:30 AM Dushore J. Lambert, S. Wilcox

**Altar Servers**

4:00 PM Dushore

7:30 AM Mildred R. Thomas

9:30 AM Dushore B. Tewell, C. Minier

**Greeters**

4:00 PM Dushore C. & C.A. Gindele

7:30 AM Mildred R. Hope

9:30 AM Dushore J. & D. McDonough



*Update of the Annual Diocesan Appeal:*

*Our Parish Goal: \$41,000.00*

*Total Raised: \$36,995.00*

*Under Goal: \$4,005.00*

*Percentage of Parishioners Pledged as of 1/12/2016*

*38.38% (180 out of 469 people pledged)*

**Donate for the Year of Mercy to the Heat & Eat Fund**

Donate to the Heat and Eat fund which was established by Father Joe to help parishioners and those in need of food or fuel oil. **Anyone who is in need of assistance may contact the parish office at [570-928-8865](tel:570-928-8865).** We receive many requests in the winter when heating oil is high and our parish has been able to help those in our community through those difficult times. Last year, the parish was able to help 13 families providing over \$3,100.00 in assistance. The generosity of our parishioners has made this possible. Please consider contributing to this fund with any size gift. Contact the parish office at 570-928-8865, or write on your check, "Heat and Eat Fund" and include it with your offering. Let's be a blessing to others this 'Year.'

**Vocations Day Thank You**

Thank you to all who worked so tirelessly on our parish's Vocations Day Retreat, which was held on Saturday, March 5<sup>th</sup> in St. Basil's Hall. A special thanks to John Lambert, Kat Clark, John Silla, Assistant Vocations Director of the Diocese of Scranton Fr. Brian Van Fossen, Capuchin Sisters Christina and Agnes, and especially to all the parents whose children attended the day. We will continue to keep all the youth who attended the day in our prayers and pray for vocations always!

Lent is a favorable time for letting Christ serve us so that we in turn may become more like him. ~Pope Francis

## Chosen: IHM Youth Program

IHM Parish Youth (Grades 7-12) are invited to meet for spiritual enrichment!

**The next meetings are Monday, March 7, 14, & 21 at 7:00 PM– 9:00PM in the Cave (St. Francis Rectory Basement, Mildred)**

*Homemade goodies will be provided*

**For more information contact Elly Rojas at 570-928-9819, register online at [ihmdushore.com](http://ihmdushore.com), or join our Facebook group Chosen by God**

## Reflecting on the Gospel

Sometimes, like the two sons in the parable, we entertain all the wrong things. Repentance helps us entertain the right things. Our human tendency is to think we can make a go of life on our own. If we are happy to settle for minimums, some of us can muddle through life reasonably well. This parable reminds us that God offers us so much more.

The father is a model of mercy and reconciliation. It is the father who models for us paschal mystery living. It is the father in the parable who models for us the mercy of our heavenly Father—mercy that not only forgives and reconciles but offers a feast. If we choose to die to self (“coming to our senses”) and return to God, we are greeted with forgiveness and feasting. Even more, at our heavenly Father’s feast we aren’t simply welcomed back as the sons and daughters we were, but are transformed into more perfect sons and daughters sharing in divine life. We feast on much more than a fattened calf; the feast to which we are invited is nothing less than the Body and the Blood of the Son. Receiving God’s forgiveness and mercy, and offering the same to one another, is how we pass from Wednesday ashes to Easter feasting. Let us rejoice!

## Lenten Penance Services

Confessions will be heard on **Sunday, March 13<sup>th</sup>, at 4:00 PM in St. Basil’s Church, Dushore.** Guest confessors will assist. Come and experience God’s gentle compassion and forgiveness.

### Additional Area Lenten Penance Services

**St. Michael’s Church, Canton**

Sunday, March 6, 2:00 PM

**Sts. Peter & Paul Church, Towanda**

Sunday, March 6, 4:00 PM

**St. Mary’s Church, Wyalusing**

Sunday, March 13, 2:00 PM

**Epiphany, Sayre**

Sunday, March 20, 3:00 PM



## Hungering to Learn

We journey with CRS Rice Bowl to the Central American country of Honduras, where we meet students who are leaning that it is better to help your neighbor learn and grow than to leave him or her behind. To whom are we called to extend a hand this week? Visit [crsricebowl.org](http://crsricebowl.org) for more.



## Palancas Needed!

A palanca is a prayer, a sacrifice, an expression of love, hope and faith; selflessly giving of yourself for another so that a person can open their heart a little more to God’s love, mercy and forgiveness. Some examples of a palanca can be a special good deed done for the person to whom you are giving the palanca, an extra Mass during the week, an extra rosary, or even doing something you absolutely dread doing. We ask that you take a name or names of our RCIA Candidates and keep those people in your prayers during this very special time for them. Feel free to send them a card or a quick note letting them know that you are praying for them and spiritually supporting them as they prepare for their entrance into our faith. (Please send any correspondence to IHM Parish, PO Box 307 Dushore, PA 18614.) ***Our candidates’ names are: Luke Manero, Lisa Major, Sean Murphy, Jamie***

## Senior Center Without Walls

### Come Join us for a day of fun!!

**At St. Francis Hall, in Mildred. Thursday, March 17th, 2016.**

Bingo at 10:30AM. Lunch served at 12noon. Door prizes!! Reservations required. Please call 1-800-982-4346 by Wednesday, March 15. Open to community seniors, age 60 and over.

## The Light Is On For You

All Mondays of Lent from 5:30-7:00pm, The Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish and all the parishes in the Diocese of Scranton will be open for individual confessions. In this Holy Year of Mercy, Catholics are invited to experience Christ’s healing love through the Sacrament of Reconciliation as an important dimension of the Lenten journey. The website, [www.dioceseofscranton.org/light](http://www.dioceseofscranton.org/light) has materials to assist you in preparing to make a good confession, prayers you may find helpful, and answers to frequently asked questions. Please make plans to come on a Lenten Monday and spread the word of this special outreach of mercy to those you know.



## Be A Man

Diocese of Scranton 2nd Annual ~ Catholic Men's  
Conference

April 23rd, 2016. Kings College, Scandlon Physical  
Education Center

149 North Main Street, Wilkes-Barre, PA 18701

For more information call the Diocesan Office for Parish life at  
570-207-2213 or Mike Kilmer at 570-746-0100

## VBS Update

Pastors from the Sullivan County Ministerium, Ron Dyer, Redeemer Church; Carol Hausser, United Methodist Church; Phyllis Pelletier, Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church; and Father Richard Rojas will be meeting on March 10<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 PM in Redeemer Church, Dushore, to finalize plans for the annual community Vacation Bible School which will be held on July 25<sup>th</sup> through 29<sup>th</sup> in St. Basil's Hall, Dushore. We will be recruiting help from parishioners to assist in different areas. Please watch the bulletin for more information. **Our first VBS planning meeting will be held on March 31<sup>st</sup> at 6:00 PM in St. Basil's Hall, Dushore. If you are able to help with VBS this year, please plan on attending.**

## Special Meeting of the Choir

Fr. Glenn McCreary is coming to a special meeting of the Choir on Sunday, March 13 at 2:00 PM in St. Francis Rectory, Mildred. If you are part of the music program at IHM Parish, please plan on attending.

## Finance Council Meeting

A finance council meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 8, 2016 at 6:30 PM in St. Francis of Assisi Rectory in Mildred. If you are a member, please plan on attending.

## LENTEN CELEBRATIONS & SERVICES

The following services and celebrations will be held throughout the season of Lent. All are welcome.



### Lenten Community Worship Service

Zion Lutheran Church, Dushore  
Wednesdays during Lent  
6:00 PM Soup and Sandwich  
7:00 PM Community Worship

ALL ARE WELCOME!

### Stations of the Cross



Stations of the Cross will be celebrated on Fridays during Lent at 8:30 AM in St. Basil's Church followed by Daily Mass at 9:00 AM and 7:00 PM in St. Francis of Assisi Church.

### Evening Prayer (Vespers)

Evening Prayer (Vespers) will be recited each weekday evening during Lent at 6:00 PM in St. Basil's Church. All are welcome to come and pray one of the oldest and most beautiful forms of the Church's prayer.

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

*Knights of Columbus Lenten Fish Dinners*

*Friday, March 18<sup>th</sup>*

*Dinners are from 4:00 to 7:00 in St.*

*Basil's Hall, Dushore*

*Desserts are needed!!!*



**A big THANK YOU to Mr. Norman Taylor and Phil Denmon who worked the whole day, Saturday, to fix the emergency electrical and lights situation in St. Basil's Hall. Blessings, Father Rojas**

This space is available  
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(570) 928-8865  
for more information



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**KNIGHTS of COLUMBUS  
Council # 12406**



Meets  
3rd Tuesday  
of the Month  
7:00P.M.

**Call Rectory 928-8865**



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