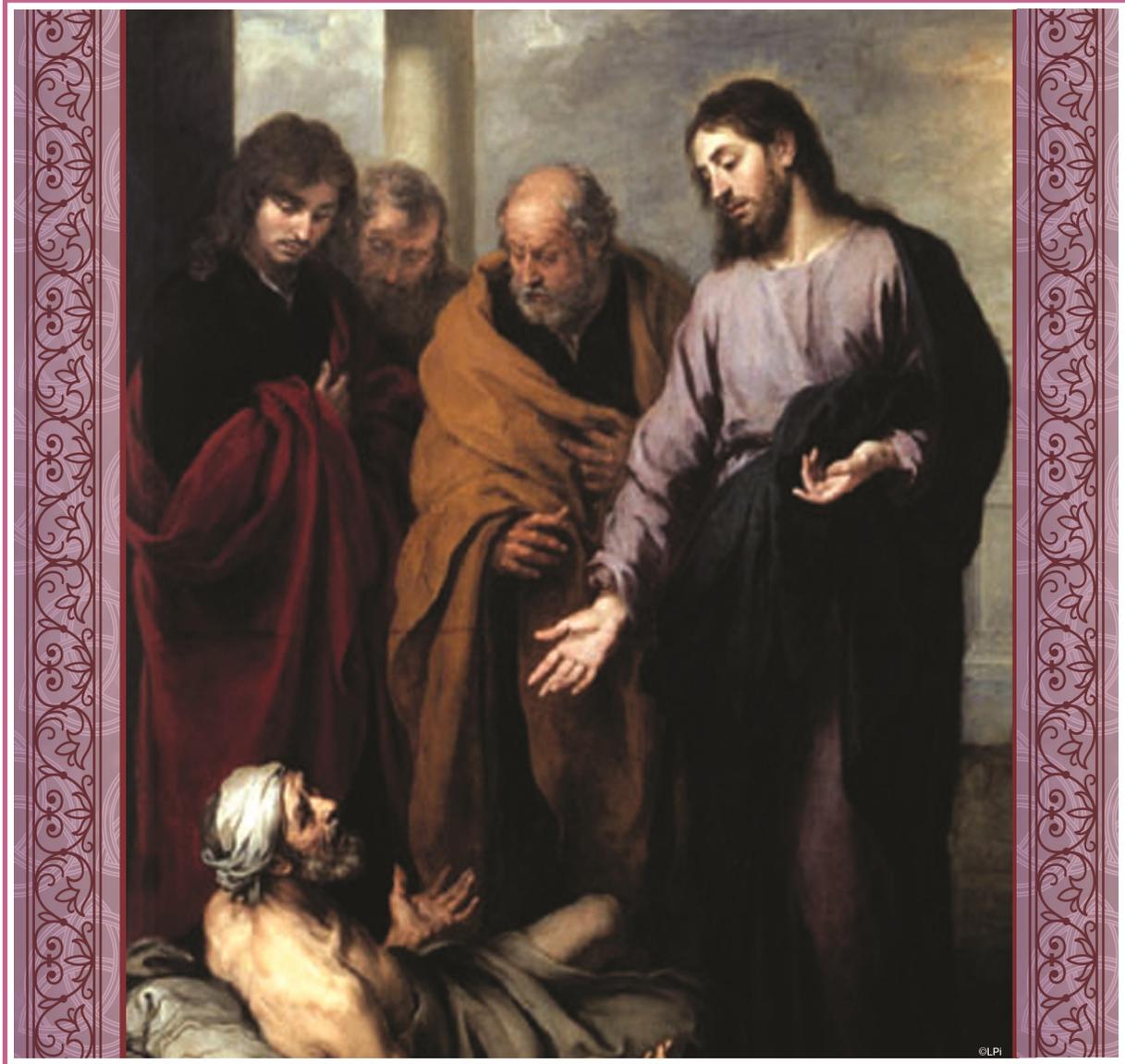


# St. Maximilian Kolbe Parish

## January 23, 2022



### MISSION STATEMENT

We Worship ~ We Teach ~ We Care

5112 Pocono Crest Road  
PO Box 0  
Pocono Pines, PA 18350  
570-646-6424

Mass Schedule:  
Saturday 4:00 pm  
Sunday 8:30 am & 10:30 am

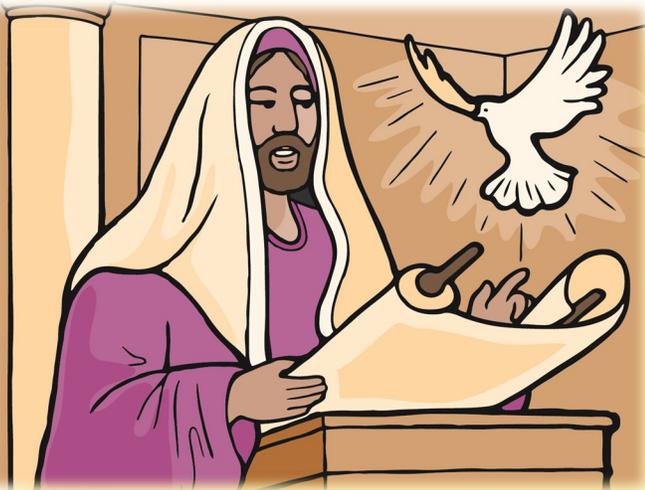
**January 23, 2022**  
**3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
**Year C**

**GOSPEL MEDITATION**

Human history reveals many periods where people lost a sense of God’s transcendence. It may even be argued that human beings have been wandering and lost more than they have been at home and focused. Human nature being what it is, we struggle with who God really is — the God of our salvation history or the “gods” of human constructs. Relying on our own designs and pursuits, we forget that we really are meant to listen to One upon whom the Spirit of the Lord rests, Jesus Christ, and not to ourselves. That same history that reveals our fickleness and infidelity also reveals God’s constancy and faithfulness. God always finds us.

As people wander and fumble to find their way, God is there bringing them back to holiness and giving them the assurance of His presence. We have to allow God’s Word, God’s life, to touch us and change us. It can make us more flexible and attentive to the sacred in all facets of life so that every day is one that is holy. Every day is a time when fulfillment is possible for one’s soul. Jesus stood before those gathered in the synagogue as the fulfillment of words of promise that were echoed long ago. God doesn’t forget. He always comes for us.

Now it is time to remember to go to God. Sometimes our lives are so confused and tangled that it is difficult to see the Word and hand of God. But when we realize, deep within, the depth of friendship God offers to us it really has the power to turn sadness to joy. The promise is fulfilled. Going frequently to God’s Word, allowing ourselves to be enriched and rejuvenated, and pondering the certainly of God’s fidelity and promise permanently transforms us. We will be more aware of the sacred and the holy and less invested in things that pull us away. ©LPi



— The Spirit of the Lord is upon me...  
 He has sent me to proclaim liberty to captives  
 and recovery of sight to the blind,  
 to let the oppressed go free.”

— Lk 4:18



**St. Maximilian Kolbe**  
**Parish Staff**

***Reverend Sean G. Carpenter***  
 ~ Pastor

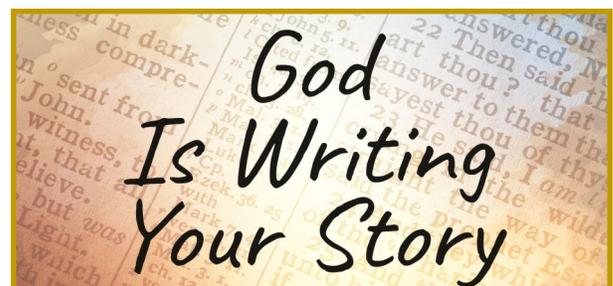
***Deacon Tom Amoroso***

***Judy Grace***  
 Director of Religious Education  
 ~ stmaxreligious@ptd.net

***Juli Reese***  
 Office Manager ~ Stmaxkol@ptd.net

***John Marcinkowski, Jr.***  
 Coordinator of Music ~ jjm1105@ptd.net

Visit us on the web @ [www.stmaxkolbepoconos.org](http://www.stmaxkolbepoconos.org)



St. Maximilian Kolbe, Priest and Martyr, pray for us



# Mass Intentions

**Saturday: Joan Carroll**  
by Gail & Al Huff

**Sunday 8:30 am: For The Parishioners**  
**10:30 am: Halina Grochulski**  
by Ryszard Grochulski & Family

**Monday: Alexander "Lex" Petrillo**  
by Aline Lynch

**Tuesday: Anne Marie Alcamo**  
by Nat Alcamo

**Wednesday: Marie DeVito**  
by Alberta Scalia

**Thursday: John Duffy**  
by Cousin Jack

**Saturday: Ken Miller**  
by The Family

**Sunday 8:00 am: For The Parishioners**  
**10:30 am: Deacon Frank Gisoldi**  
by Mary Howe



**Sanctuary Light**  
Available for your Intentions  
Call the Parish Office



**Bread and Wine**  
For Victims of Abortion



**Altar Flowers**  
Available for your Intentions  
Call the Parish Office

Readings for the Week	
Sunday:	Neh 8:2-4a, 5-6, 8-10; 1 Cor 12:12-30; Lk 1:1-4; 4:14-21
Monday:	2 Sm 5:1-7, 10; Mk 3:22-30
Tuesday:	Acts 22:3-16; Mk 16:15-18
Wednesday:	2 Tm 1:1-8; Mk 4:1-20
Thursday:	2 Sm 7:18-19, 24-29; Mk 4:21-25
Friday:	2 Sm 11:1-4a, 5-10a, 13-17; Mk 4:26-34
Saturday:	2 Sm 12:1-7a, 10-17; Mk 4:35-41
Sunday:	Jer 1:4-5, 17-19; 1 Cor 12:31- 13:13; Lk 4:21-30



**Confessions are held on  
Saturdays in the church from  
3:00 to 3:45 pm.  
Other times by appointment only.**

**MASS SCHEDULE**

**DAILY: 9:15 am—Monday thru Thursday  
(NO MASS ON FRIDAY)**

**SATURDAY: 4:00 pm**

**SUNDAY: 8:30 & 10:30 am**



**stewardship**  
sharing the gifts we have been given

**Donations**

January 9th.....\$ 2,389.  
Many Thanks to All who continue to  
support our Parish.



Katie Scully ~ Eileen Long - Geri Williams  
Mary DeWaters ~ Charles Brunner  
Lillian Bellis ~ Miroslawa Trochimowicz  
John Scomillio  
Joan Aronowitz ~ Christopher Mortensen

If you know someone in need of prayers  
and would like to have them added to this list,  
please call the Parish Office.

**ST. MAX PARISH OFFICE HOURS**  
**MONDAY THROUGH THURSDAY**  
**10 am to 1 pm**

# FAITH formation



## Faith Formation Classes

Grades 1st & 2nd, preparing for Sacraments of Reconciliation and First Communion, meet in the Church Hall from 9:15 to 10:15 am.

Grades 7th & 8th, for Confirmation, meet in the classrooms from 9:15 to 10:15 am.

Grades 3, 4, 5 and 6 have Virtual classes.

*Please contact Judy Grace in the Parish Office for any questions.*

## St Max Little Rock Scripture Group The group meets Tuesdays at 10 am

The new year will focus on reading "Life Eternal". We have books and/or printed study materials available for you to follow. Contact Judy Grace, DRE at 570-646-6424.

## ONLINE SCRIPTURE STUDY



The St. Maximilian Kolbe Scripture Study discussion group meets live on Zoom Wednesday mornings @10:30 am.

New members are always welcome. For more information on how to join, contact Judy in the parish office. We would love to "see" you.

## We Need Your Input

Our parish intern, Lynn, is forming a team of adults who will meet over the next few months to discuss adult faith formation. The focus will be on discerning what parishioners may need in order to live as disciples of Jesus to the fullest extent possible and beginning to address those needs with a short study or discussion group to be offered this coming Spring. The hope is to gather input from a diverse group of parishioners

– young & older, male & female, and multi-racial/ethnic. If you or someone you know of is interested in or has ideas regarding the faith formation needs of our adults, please contact

Lynn at [LRuezinsky@optonline.net](mailto:LRuezinsky@optonline.net) or (908)251-4054. Thank you!

## St. Maximilian Kolbe Bereavement Support Group Resumes Sessions

Next meeting is this Wednesday, February 9th

The Bereavement Support group meets downstairs in the parish hall on the second Wednesday of each month at 2 pm. *Until further notice, all participants will be asked to wear masks and to observe social distancing in order to protect others in attendance who may be medically vulnerable.*

It is not necessary to be a member of St. Max Parish in order to attend this ecumenical group. The format is open and ongoing (not limited to a fixed number of sessions) and the content of the meeting is selected to address the needs of those present. Anyone who has experienced a loss due to death, divorce, or separation is encouraged to attend. Through the use of audio, visual, and printed materials the group offers information about the stages of grief & the emotional, physical, mental, & spiritual effects that may be experienced by those who are grieving. A lending library contains materials that are helpful for children, adolescents, and adults. The compassionate presence of people who have journeyed through the bereavement process offer support for the newly bereaved and for those who may have delayed the process or who still need assistance. For more information, contact Lynnette at 570-839-9346; text to 570-242-6165; or email her at [tomlyn65@ptd.net](mailto:tomlyn65@ptd.net).

**Ministry Volunteers:** There is a table in the Narthex for all current ministry volunteers, as well as anyone who would like to volunteer. It includes copies of the current schedule, a roster to help you find a sub when needed, and a sign-up sheet for anyone wishing to help as Usher, Altar Server, Eucharistic Minister or Lector. These sheets will be checked weekly.



## Living to the Max Youth Group Meets Every Wednesday at 6:30 pm

Download the "Remind" app and search "Youth Group" so you can get updates about the group.  
Email: [reesecup2018@gmail.com](mailto:reesecup2018@gmail.com) for more info.

St. Maximilian Kolbe, Priest and Martyr, pray for us

**Feed your FAITH  
to starve your doubts.**

**EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP  
RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS**

**Plant Your Works in the Word**

One of the things about Scripture is that even the smallest word and shortest phrase can be critical to the overall message. When you take a quiet moment to rest with the Word, you find how quickly the most mundane sentence can reach out and grab you, pulling you into a deeper contemplation of some truth you hadn't even considered until then.

But we often fail to act as the Israelites in the Book of Nehemiah, standing before the Water Gate "listening attentively." Whether it's at Mass during the Liturgy of the Word or at home poring over the Bible, time after time we find ourselves less mindful than we could be. Our ears accept the sounds of the words and our eyes glance over the shape of the letters.

But are we mindful — truly?

The best answer is hopefully at least sometimes. There are always tasks to be completed, problems weighing on our minds that we can't quite give over to God. We lose ourselves in these things instead of in Scripture. We "clock in" with Bible reading instead of "diving in."

We can never forget that the words of the Lord are spirit and life. They are the soil that quickens the seed of all stewardship. There is no mindfulness, no prayer, no graciousness, no gratitude or accountability or sense of commitment unless there is the Word.

So let us pray today for mindfulness, that our every action will be grounded in the law of God — giving it true spirit and life. — *Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS*

***Stay Connected to God.***

**Check this out...[morningoffering.com](http://morningoffering.com)**

This website offers free daily devotional email including wisdom from the saints, classic books on Catholic spirituality, Daily Mass readings, a homily on the Gospel, monthly devotions and more.

People can easily lose a sense of the sacred and transcendent. When we lose a sense of God's special presence, we need to be brought back. Ezra brought people back to the word of God and they realized what they were missing. Jesus proclaims God's word in the synagogue with true conviction and tells those gathered that he is the fulfillment of all that Isaiah taught. Even though people get lost, distracted, discouraged, and often journey down the wrong path, God's timeless law remains. When we allow ourselves to truly hear God's word and act on it, that living word slowly, over time, changes us. It has the power to soften and mold us, creating within us a joyful spirit. We realize the truth in what God speaks and become open to God's love. Gradually and gently God leads us back where we belong. We discover again the sacred character of life and the wonder of God's power. It is no wonder that Luke addresses his remarks to Theophilus. It is a name that means "beloved of God," a name that can be used by anyone who desires friendship with God.

There is no limit to what can be accomplished if it doesn't matter who gets the credit.

...for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose.  
~Philippians 2:13



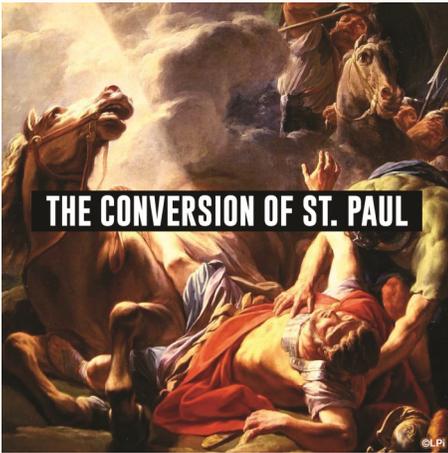
Quotes from "Footprints" by Margaret Fishback Powers

**CATHOLIC TRIVIA – JUST FOR FUN**

**Question:** Who is the patron saint of lost things?

(Answer is found on the last page of the bulletin).

St. Maximilian Kolbe, Priest and Martyr, pray for us



## Tuesday, January 25th - Feast of The Conversion of St. Paul

St. Paul the Apostle was the greatest of the early Christian missionaries. He first appears in the Acts of the Apostles under the name of Saul. Saul was raised in the Jewish faith as a Pharisee trained in the strict observance of God's Law. He believed the Law should be obeyed by himself and all Jews. Saul was upset by the early Christian Church, believing that the early Christians had broken away from their Jewish traditions. He actively persecuted the Church in Jerusalem. As the first Christian martyr Stephen was being stoned to death, Saul watched the cloaks of the persecutors (Acts 7:58).

Paul then traveled to Damascus to further persecute early Christians. On the road to Damascus Saul had an encounter with the Risen Jesus Christ (Acts of the Apostles 9:1–19, Galatians 1: 13–14). Jesus asked, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?" Paul replied, "Who are you, sir?" Jesus responded, "I am Jesus whom you are persecuting" (Acts 9: 4 – 5). Jesus then sent Saul into Damascus to wait for further instructions. Saul was shaken and blinded by the experience. When a Christian named Ananias came and baptized Saul, his blindness went away. As a result of this encounter Saul became a follower of Christ. He was now convinced that fellowship with the risen Jesus Christ, not the observance of the Law, was all that was needed to receive God's promise of salvation. (Galatians 1:11–12; 3:1–5)

Saul, whose name now became Paul, went to Jerusalem to consult with Peter (Galatians 1: 18). After his first missionary journeys, Paul was called by Jesus to proclaim the Gospel to the Gentiles. He spent the rest of his life journeying on his missions, establishing local churches, and writing to them when he heard of their accomplishments and failures. Paul's letters are the earliest records of the life and history of the early Church. As inspired by the Holy Spirit Paul's letters are part of the Canon of the New Testament. As a record of the happenings in the early Church they are in invaluable record of the expansion of the Christianity.

### WHY DO WE DO THAT? CATHOLIC LIFE EXPLAINED

#### Is it Right to Sue?

**Question:** Is it right to sue someone? Isn't it a way of getting revenge? **Answer:** Revenge is inflicting harm for harm's sake, the idea of an eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth, and then some. There is often a fine line between justice and mercy, between compensation and forgiveness. Unfortunately, things can happen to us that cause harm, suffering, and damage, regardless of people's intentions. When someone is hurt, especially in such a way that special care or treatment is required, the cost of that care needs to be paid.

In a perfect world, those with special needs, handicaps, or disabilities would find the help and care they need, including those who are injured or hurt. But justice is not always forthcoming, and people are not always fair. So, using the legal system to right a wrong is sometimes the only option. In some cases, it is the only way that people can get the help they need and deserve. However, frivolous lawsuits, or 'fishing for money' is not only unfair, but immoral as well. The law is there to protect people and making use of it when necessary is a good thing. ©LPi

### DIOCESE ANNOUNCEMENT

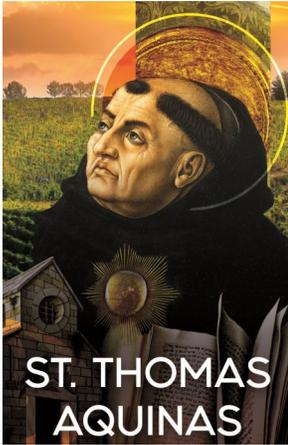
On December 21, 2021, Pope Francis appointed the Reverend Jeffrey J. Walsh, Pastor of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish and Saint Rose of Lima Parish, Carbondale, as the Sixth Bishop of the Diocese of Gaylord, Michigan.

As Bishop-elect Walsh prepares for his Episcopal Ordination and Installation as Bishop of Gaylord on March 4, 2022, parishioners and friends of the Bishop-elect are invited to attend a Mass of Thanksgiving and Sending Forth in gratitude for his ministry of service to the People of God in the Church of Scranton. The Mass will be held on Tuesday, February 15, 2022 at 12:10 p.m. in Saint Peter's Cathedral. It will also be televised live on Catholic Television of the Diocese of Scranton.

St. Maximilian Kolbe, Priest and Martyr, pray for us

**SAINT OF THE WEEK  
EXAMPLES OF OUR FAITH**

**St. Thomas Aquinas  
Feast Day— Friday, January 28**



One of the most famous members of the Dominican Order, St. Thomas Aquinas (1225 – 1274) is well-known for his theological work, “*The Summa Theologiae*.” Born in Italy, his mother wanted him to become a Benedictine and had high hopes that he would eventually become abbot of Monte Cassino, where he spent much of his youth. To

change his vocation, she had him kidnapped by his brothers on his way to Paris at the age of 19. He spent two years in their captivity. Despite this, nothing could shake him from his vocation to become a Dominican priest and he was eventually released. Once free, he went to Paris and then to Cologne, where he finished his studies with Albert the Great.

His greatest contribution to the Catholic Church is his writings. The unity, harmony, and continuity of faith and reason, of revealed and natural human knowledge, encompasses his writings. The *Summa Theologiae*, his last & unfortunately, uncompleted work, deals with the whole of Catholic theology. The patron saint of teachers, theologians and students, St. Thomas Aquinas died in 1274. His life and the impact he had on the whole Church, however, remains alive today. ©LPi

**2022 Saint Joseph Sunday Missals**

The new Saint Joseph Sunday Missals are still available. Each family is welcome to take a copy of the New Saint Joseph Sunday Missal on your way out of the church. Baskets will be at the exits or copies can be picked up in the Office.

**Trivia Answer**  
St. Anthony of Padua

**Word of Life....**

“Many people know someone personally who is suffering because of an abortion. If a friend confided in you tomorrow that she had an abortion, would you be able to respond in a way that brings her closer to healing? ... Even a woman who doesn’t go to church or think of herself as religious can be afraid that God will never forgive her for having an abortion. She should know that God loves and forgives those who are sorrowful. He wants to comfort them and give them his peace.



*USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities*  
“How to Talk to a Friend Who’s Had an Abortion”



**It’s easy to join  
our parish !**

Go to:

[stmaxkolepoconos.org](http://stmaxkolepoconos.org)  
and click ***Join.***

Fill in your basic information & a member of our parish staff will contact you. Or, call the parish office @ 570-646-6424 for a registration form to be mailed to you.

3RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



St. Maximilian Kolbe, Priest and Martyr, pray for us