

**Readings for the Week of March 22, 2020**

Sunday: 1 Sm 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6/  
Eph 5:8-14/Jn 9:1-41 or 9:1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38  
Monday: Is 65:17-21/Ps 30:2, 4, 5-6, 11-12a and 13b/  
Jn 4:43-54  
Tuesday: Ez 47:1-9, 12/Ps 46: 2-3, 5-6, 8-9/Jn 5:1-16  
Wednesday: Is 7:10-14; 8:10/Ps 40:7-8a, 8b-9, 10, 11/  
Heb 10:4-10/Lk 1:26-38  
Thursday: Ex 32:7-14/Ps 106:19-20, 21-22, 23 [4a]/Jn 5:31-47  
Friday: Wis 2:1a, 12-22/Ps 34:17-18, 19-20, 21, 23/  
Jn 7:1-2, 10, 25-30  
Saturday: Jer 11:18-20/Ps 7:2-3, 9bc-10, 11-12 [2a]/Jn 7:40-53  
Next Sunday: Ez 37:12-14/Ps 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8 [7]/  
Rom 8:8-11/Jn 11:1-45 or 11:3-7, 17, 20-27, 33b-45  
©2020 Liturgical Publications Inc

**Observances for the Week of March 22, 2020**

Sunday: 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent  
Monday: St. Turibius of Mogrovejo, Bishop  
Tuesday:  
Wednesday: The Annunciation of the Lord  
Thursday:  
Friday:  
Saturday:  
Next Sunday: 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent  
©2020 Liturgical Publications Inc

**LIVE THE LITURGY –  
INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK**

Seeing is much more than just a function of our eyes. We can look at something with clear vision but not really see it. Often what we think we see is colored by our presuppositions, prejudices, assumptions, and needs. We judge things by appearance, but God looks into the heart. God’s sight has a much wider range and far greater depth. Receiving things or people just based on appearance can lead us to erroneous and hurtful judgments. We think we are seeing clearly, but we are not. Allowing God to restore our sight so that we can truly see is a worthy goal for our Lenten journey. Look within and look without. What do you see? Allow God to complete the picture for you. Ask Him to give you the insight to look into someone’s heart. Don’t draw hasty conclusions or presume you know the truth. Be open and humble enough so that you can receive the sight that only God can give.

©2020 Liturgical Publications Inc



**church support**

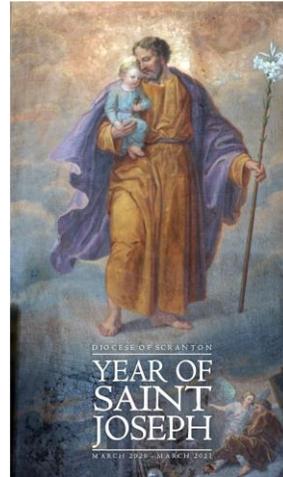
... for Mar 14/15, 2020

was \$2,050.86. We need to urge those who can do so to maintain support for our parish during these difficult days. **Your donations can be mailed to the parish office.** Monies will be needed to cover the ordinary expenses of maintaining our buildings, and in order to sustain the ministries and services needed by our parishioners and those most in need.



**Until further notice all public Masses are suspended. Father Walsh will celebrate Mass on Sunday mornings at 8:30 a.m. and it will be**

**broadcast live on our Facebook page:**  
[www.facebook.com/OLEPARISH](http://www.facebook.com/OLEPARISH)



**Year of Saint Joseph**

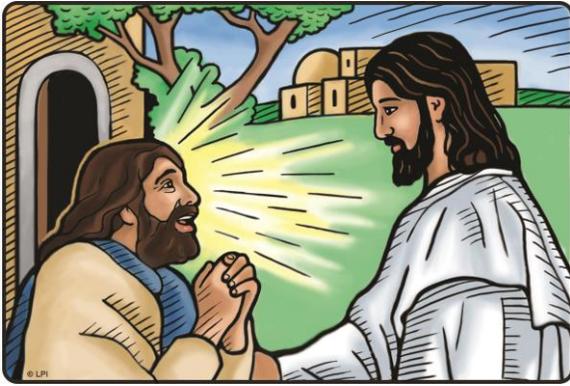
This year marks the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Pope Pius IX’s decree naming Saint Joseph, husband of the Blessed Virgin Mary and foster-father of Jesus, as the Patron of the Universal Church.

In commemoration of this anniversary and recognizing the fitting time for the Church to invoke the intercession of this guardian, His Excellency, Bishop Joseph C. Bambera has declared this year as a “Year of Saint Joseph” to be observed in the Diocese of Scranton from March 19, 2020 to March 19, 2021. Bishop Bambera states, “Just as Saint Joseph watched over and protected the Lord Jesus while he was on earth, we need Saint Joseph to watch over and provide for the Church today. His intercession on behalf of the Universal Church is vital as the world faces so much upheaval and pain, and particularly as it confronts the uncertainty and pain of the coronavirus epidemic.”

Bishop Bambera invites all of the faithful to renew their devotion to Saint Joseph during this commemorative year, and to seek his powerful intercession to safely guard the Church from all evils, just as he protected the Holy Family from harm.



**Our Church is open from 9AM to 1PM daily for private prayer and devotion.**



“Do you believe in the Son of Man?” Jesus wants to motivate each one of us to see the truth. After developing a relationship with Jesus, the blind man “sees” as someone very special. The Pharisees, due to the blindness caused by their ignorance, prejudice, and need for self-preservation, still remain blind. Presuppositions, prejudices, assumptions, and our needs can easily blind us to truth. We see what we want or need to see and not what is really there. In addition, our stubbornness continues to convince us that we are right and that our vision is perfect. Only God can complete the picture.

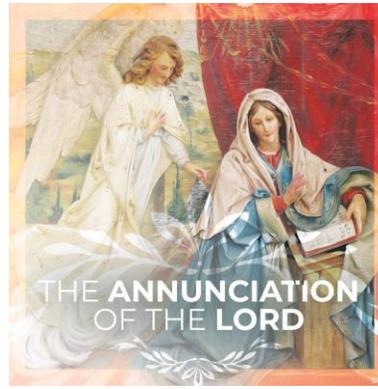
Look around at our world. So much of what is happening today is due to the reluctance of folks to allow themselves to be stretched and brought to see what is really there. Many react to what life presents to them more with the lenses of ignorance than lenses of clarity. The Gospel carries great transformative value. With it, God corrects our vision and replaces our limited sight with the fullness of his sight. God opens our eyes so that we can see that it is not about preserving what we have created but of living in the immensity and wonder of God’s kingdom.

Through a simple, loving relationship with God, we can break through the tethers of prejudice, eradicate fear, dispel the darkness of hatred and sin, discover freedom, live in peace, work for justice, be effective stewards of creation, assist the migrant and the immigrant, and safeguard our economic systems and policies so that they truly serve all of God’s children. What we see is often an artificial lie. Our truth is much bigger than what our limited sight believes it to be. Allow God to work in and through you. Do not be afraid. Be open and be humble enough to know that you need help. Many human beings are living with severe cataracts that produce sight that is at best blurred. Are you one of them?

©2020 Liturgical Publications Inc

### **An Act of Spiritual Communion**

My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the most Blessed Sacrament. I love You above all things and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot now receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there, and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.



Wednesday,  
March 25, 2020

The feast of the Annunciation, now recognized as a solemnity, was first celebrated in the fourth or fifth century. Its central focus is the Incarnation: God has

become one of us. From all eternity God had decided that the Second Person of the Blessed Trinity should become human. Now, as Luke 1:26-38 tells us, the decision is being realized. The God-Man embraces all humanity, indeed all creation, to bring it to God in one great act of love. Because human beings have rejected God, Jesus will accept a life of suffering and an agonizing death: “No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends” (John 15:13).

Mary has an important role to play in God’s plan. From all eternity, God destined her to be the mother of Jesus and closely related to him in the creation and redemption of the world. We could say that God’s decrees of creation and redemption are joined in the decree of Incarnation. Because Mary is God’s instrument in the Incarnation, she has a role to play with Jesus in creation and redemption. It is a God-given role. It is God’s grace from beginning to end. Mary becomes the eminent figure she is only by God’s grace. She is the empty space where God could act. Everything she is she owes to the Trinity.

Mary is the virgin-mother who fulfills Isaiah 7:14 in a way that Isaiah could not have imagined. She is united with her son in carrying out the will of God (Psalm 40:8-9; Hebrews 10:7-9; Luke 1:38).

Together with Jesus, the privileged and graced Mary is the link between heaven and earth. She is the human being who best, after Jesus, exemplifies the possibilities of human existence. She received into her lowliness the infinite love of God. She shows how an ordinary human being can reflect God in the ordinary circumstances of life. She exemplifies what the Church and every member of the Church is meant to become. She is the ultimate product of the creative and redemptive power of God. She manifests what the Incarnation is meant to accomplish for all of us.

*Franciscan Media*

**We will continue to keep you up to date and make any necessary announcements via our Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/OLEPARISH](http://www.facebook.com/OLEPARISH)) and our parish Webpage ([www.eucharist-pittston.org](http://www.eucharist-pittston.org)).**

**Stay Safe and God bless all of you,**

*Sister Mary Ann and Father Walsh*