



February 22, 2026 ✘ First Sunday of Lent

Mass Schedule for the Week:

Saturday, February 21, 2026

5:00 PM John Milia

Sunday, February 22, 2026

8:00 AM Intentions for Nurture & Protection of Children

10:30 AM Intentions for Walter Areiza

Monday, February 23, 2026

9:00 AM NO MASS

Tuesday, February 24, 2026

9:00 AM Rev. Francis P. Straka

Wednesday, February 25, 2026

9:00 AM Rev. Raymond P. Slezak

Thursday, February 26, 2026

9:00 AM Sam Ranaudo

Friday, February 27, 2026

9:00 AM Rosa Oquendo

Saturday, February 28, 2026

5:00 PM Intentions for Joseph Kramer

Sunday, March 1, 2026

8:00 AM Grace Hornickel

10:30 AM Jim Bross, Sr.

Parish Schedule/Announcements

Second Collection - Catholic Home Mission Appeal

Tuesday, February 24: 6:30pm - ALPHA

Wednesday, February 25: 6:30pm - St. Monica Ministry

Thursday, February 26: 9:30am - 7:30pm -

Eucharistic Adoration with Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament at 7:00pm; Stations of the Cross at 7:00 PM;

Reconciliation from 9:30-10:30am; & 6:00-6:45pm

13th Annual Lenten Crab Cake Sale

The Knights of Columbus are hosting the *13th Annual Lenten Crab Cake sale*. Deadline for orders is *Sunday, March 22*, with pickup on Friday, March 27.

Lector & Server Schedule

Saturday, February 28

5:00 PM ~ Servers: Bross Lector: Stine

Sunday, March 1

8:00 AM ~ Servers: R. Kalinofski Lector: King

10:30 AM ~ Servers: P. Kalinofski Lector: Robezzoli

- Living Flame -

Will burn the week of February 22, 2026
For Special Intentions



If you are a homebound parishioner or know of a homebound parishioner unable to attend Mass due to an illness, please notify the office so we can reach out to you (them).

Pray For Our Sick

Delphine Altland, Alicia Balkjy, Camille Bernardo, Lucia (Lucy) Bernardo, Lisa Boess, Jim Bross, Sr., Betty & Harold Brown, Rosemary C., Joseph Disabella, Savannah Ferrell, Pat Fleagle, Judith Goeltz, Alice Bernardo-Gold, Michael B. Hasenauer, Nicholas M. Headley, Karen Houck, John Hopko, Rose Howard, John Jones, Leslie & Janet Livinghouse, Florence Kapuscinski, Mary Ann Kirkpatrick, Richard L. Mark, Kathleen Miller, Tom Mirabella, Dave Mitchell, Connor Macey, Drea Moyer, Joe Noll, Mary Ann Savitsky, David Snyder, Pat Snyder, Barbara Lucas Stencel, Andrew Strangarity, Logan Weaver, Eleana Wilson



Readings for the Week

First Sunday of Lent

Gn 2:7-9, 3:1-7; Rom 5:12-19

Monday

Lv 19:1-2, 11-18; Mt 25:31-46

Tuesday

Is 55:10-11; Mt 6:7-15

Wednesday

Jon 3:1-10; Lk 11:29-32

Thursday

Est C:12, 14-16, 23-25; Mt 7:7-12

Friday

Ez 18:21-28; Mt 5:20-26

Saturday

Dt 26:16-19; Mt 5:43-48

Second Sunday of Lent

Gn 12:1-4a; 2 Tm 1:8b-10; Mt 17:1-9

Our Return to the Lord

Week of February 15, 2026 ~ \$ 5,108.00

Support the Catholic Home Missions Appeal today! Nearly 40% of dioceses in the United States and its current and former territories are considered mission territories because they are unable to fund essential pastoral activities for their communities. Your support funds religious education, seminary formation, lay ministry training, and other programs that build vibrant faith communities right here in the United States. Please be generous. Find more information at www.usccb.org/home-missions.



Let us taste your BEST Chili recipe!

*The Fun & Social committee is hosting a Chili cook-off. Signup to have your award-winning pot of chili tasted and judged by your fellow parishioners on **Saturday, March 14th** (downstairs) following the 5:00PM Mass. You must submit a large pot for the competition; the remaining chili will be used for dinner following the competition, along with other delicious treats. The winner of the competition will receive a grand prize in addition to bragging rights!!*

*Don't have a recipe worth competing – no worries! Come as a food critic! Bring the family to this tasty event to judge the entries and for some decadent desserts, fun, fellowship. Event is **FREE** and open to everyone!!*

Homemade Chocolate Easter Egg Sale

Saturday, March 7 & Sunday, March 8

{Before and after all Masses}

Made by members of the SFDS

Fun & Social Ministry

Buttercream ~ Peanut Butter ~ Coconut



St. Matthew's Gospel provides details of the nature of the test that Jesus experienced in the desert: to be a different kind of Messiah, to find a quicker or more spectacular way to win people over, to employ a one-shot way of doing God's Will that would make everybody happy.

In other words, Jesus was tempted to be someone other than who God called him to be.

This test in the desert was simply the beginning. The temptation dogged Jesus every day of his ministry. The voices came in all different shapes and sizes - expelled demons, Pharisees, Sadducees, family, friends, even some of his closest disciples. Screaming, whispering or shrieking, the voices of temptation tried to dissuade Jesus from being himself, to lose his focus, to abandon his mission, to turn away from his role in God's plan of salvation. Even as the life drained out of his body on Golgotha, Jesus still heard the voices of temptation taunting, "You saved others, save yourself. Come down from that cross."

All of us are tempted to be someone other than who God calls us to be. Voices around us, voices within us attempt to convince us that we would be happier, healthier, more successful, powerful and persuasive if we were someone - anyone - other than who we are.

We are most like Jesus when we strive to be faithful to God's plan for us. We are most like Jesus when we are faithful to our unique role in God's plan of salvation for others. We are most like Jesus when we refuse the temptation to settle for less, to sell ourselves short, to look for a short cut. We flirt with the easier, the more convenient, or the more popular way of trying to do what is right, of trying to do what is good, of trying to do what is just.

St. Francis de Sales' advice is on point: "Don't sow your desires in some else's garden; cultivate your own as best you can. Don't try to be someone other than who you are; rather, desire to be thoroughly who you are." With God's help, and the encouragement of others, let us be who we are...and be that well. In the midst of the challenges of life, let us be true to ourselves...and give glory and praise to the God who made us.

<https://www.oblates.org/sundays-salesian/first-sunday-in-lent-february-22-2026>

Health Note from your Parish Nurse Ministry: What's that toothache telling you?

Ever been minding your own business, enjoying a tasty snack, when suddenly – zing – a sharp pain shoots through your tooth? Or maybe you wake up with a dull, throbbing ache that just won't quit? The pain you experience with a toothache is your mouth sending a message that something is wrong. This warning signal is the first step to getting better and keeping your smile healthy.

Pain that warns us something is wrong

A cracked tooth, cavities, impacted wisdom teeth and other issues can all cause pain in your mouth or jaw. Different kinds of discomfort can point to different problems. It's important to pay attention to these signals, as your dentist can help you figure out what they mean.

- Sharp pain when you bite down.
- A lingering tingle or ache when you eat hot or cold food.
- Constant throbbing with swelling around your jaw.
- General soreness or ache in your jaw.
- Quick, sharp pain from hot, cold or sweet foods.
- Pain near the back of your mouth, maybe with a stiff jaw.

When is a toothache an emergency?

Sometimes, mouth pain isn't just a signal – it's a loud alarm. Some dental issues need immediate attention to stop problems from getting worse, like spreading infection or even losing a tooth.

Call your dentist right away if you have any of these symptoms.

- Pain in your mouth that's very bad, won't stop or throbs a lot.
- Swelling in your face, jaw or gums.
- A broken or knocked-out tooth from an accident.

Don't wait. Getting help fast can help save your teeth and keep your mouth healthy.

Take the heart-smart smile challenge

Did you know a healthy smile is linked to a healthy heart? The health of your mouth, especially your gums, plays a key role in your overall heart health.

The connection between your smile and your heart

Think of your mouth as a gateway to your body. If you don't keep your gums clean, your mouth can become a breeding ground for harmful bacteria. These germs then sneak from your mouth into your bloodstream. Once in the blood, they can travel throughout your body, potentially contributing to inflammation and other heart problems. Keeping your mouth clean and your gums healthy is crucial. Good oral health means fewer germs that can impact your entire body, including your heart.

Join our heart-smart smile challenge

This February during American Heart Month, take simple steps for a healthier mouth and a stronger heart:

- **Brush and floss daily.** Brush your teeth and your tongue (where germs love to hide!) twice a day for two minutes. Floss once daily to clean between your teeth where your toothbrush can't reach.
- **See your dentist.** Go for regular dental checkups and cleanings. Your dentist and hygienist can spot gum problems and help remove the bacteria that's harmful to your heart.
- **Prioritize doctor visits.** It's good to see your personal care physician (PCP) for regular checkups. They listen to your heart and help catch potential issues early.



Vikings' Voice

Student Testimonials



My name is Jocelyn Kolson, and I am an eighth-grade student at St. Ignatius Loyola Regional School, and I have been a student here since Pre-K.

St. Ignatius has significantly deepened my connection with Jesus through daily religion classes and weekly Masses. I cannot envision my life without the Church, Jesus, and the support of my friends, family, and especially the teachers who have guided me in becoming a well-rounded student. Since Pre-K, I have formed lasting relationships with everyone I have met, and I hope these bonds will endure a lifetime.

In addition to schoolwork, I participated in basketball and soccer for school; last year, we had the honor of competing in the Diocese of Allentown championship for basketball, and we hope to win the Diocesan championship this year and advance to the state tournament. Another milestone from last year was being nominated as a candidate for the NJHS, and this year, I hope to be inducted as a permanent member.

Overall, this marks my tenth year at St. Ignatius, and I am grateful for the education and values the school has instilled in me, developing me into a good student, a young leader, and, most importantly, a better child of God. I look forward to continuing this journey next year at Berks Catholic, with Jesus by my side.