



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

509 Caldwell Avenue • Portage, PA 15946-1611 • 814-736-4279 • holyfamilyportage@dioceseaj.org

**FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT**

**February 22, 2026**

**Pastor: Fr. Tom Stabile, T.O.R., Ext. 100**

**Office Manager:** Kelly Yancey, Ext. 101  
**Asst. Office Mgr. & Cemetery Director:** Pam Ellis Ext. 102  
**Hours: Monday – Friday: 8:30 AM – 3:00 PM**  
**Phone:** 814-736-4279 **Fax:** 814-736-4764

**DRE, C&YP:** Sister Vivian N. Nchujaji, SSA, Ext. 104  
**Plant Manager:** Mark Stefanko, Ext. 105  
**Prayer Chain:** Elaine Schaffranek, 814-736-9375  
**Parish Hall:** Ext. 110

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**Weekdays: Mass is celebrated at 8 AM Monday through Friday.**

**Adoration & Benediction Fridays, after the 8 AM Mass.**

**Confessions are scheduled for Saturdays, from 3 to 3:40 PM and by appointment.**

**Weekend Masses: Saturday at 4 PM, Sunday, 8 AM and 10:30 AM.**

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Sat.	Feb.	21	4:00 pm	+ Walter Orlosky req. by Joe & Janice Dipyatic
Sun.	Feb.	22	8:00 am	+ Christina Kistic Duman req. by Gina
			10:30 am	<b>MASS FOR THE PEOPLE OF THE PARISH</b>
Mon.	Feb.	23	8:00 am	+Robert Tavernini req. by People Helping People
Tues.	Feb.	24	8:00 am	+Tom Giles req. by Sacred Heart Ushers Club
Weds.	Feb.	25	8:00 am	+Ronald Martynuska req. by People Helping People
Thurs.	Feb.	26	8:00 am	+Veronica Novak req. by Joe, Michelle & Angie
Fri.	Feb.	27	8:00 am	+Hilda Sossong req. by Mel & Dave
Sat.	Feb.	28	4:00 pm	+Rose Graham req. by Mary Galla
Sun.	Mar.	1	8:00 am	<b>MASS FOR THE PEOPLE OF THE PARISH</b>
			10:30 am	+Franceska Norwich req. by OCIA Team

The Church Sanctuary Lamp will burn this week for **Rose & Walter Graham** requested by Daughter; Linda.  
 The Rectory Chapel Sanctuary Lamp will burn this week for **Stanley Stanchek, Jr.** requested by Family.

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**VISIT OUR PARISH WEBSITE OFTEN FOR THE LATEST UPDATES. [www.holyfamilyportage.org](http://www.holyfamilyportage.org)**

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**February 22, 2026 – 1st 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.

**MYSTERY BINGO** – March 15<sup>th</sup> at Holy Family Parish Hall. Only 200 tickets for sale @ \$25 each. Ticket includes Admission, 3 bingo cards, meal with beverage, and door prize drawing (\$200) and 25 Mystery Cash Prizes awarded at \$50 or more. In the event there are multiple winners Siri will select the winner, and they will choose an envelope, the runners up will receive a cash prize of lesser value also a Mystery! Available for purchase will be concessions, 50/50’s, specials and qualifiers. To buy 50/50’s & qualifiers the purchase of an Admission ticket is required! Doors open at 11:30 AM and Games begin at 1:00 PM. Tickets will be on sale before and after all Masses or contact the Parish Office!

Young Adult Group (18-39): Our January event had about 50 young adults including 5 new members. March will be our 3-year anniversary and we are always seeking new members! All young adults (18-39) are invited! There is no cost to attend. Our next Theology on Tap is February 25<sup>th</sup> at the Boulevard Grill at 6pm with Fr. David Dodd TOR speaking on: The Scriptures and the Power of God: Highly Valuing the Scriptures. Our March 25<sup>th</sup> speaker is Metropolitan Archbishop William Skurla! For more information contact Geoffrey Stumpo at (814) 659-7415 or geoffstumpo@gmail.com.

PARISH FINANCES – The stats of week 02/15/2026

Sunday/Monthly	\$5,686.00
Children	99.25
Loose	120.00
Christmas	30.00
Energy	160.00
Ash Wednesday	482.00
Lenten	703.00
Diocesan	<u>12.00</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 7,292.25</b>

UP-COMING MEETINGS & EVENTS 2026
Feb. 22 – Bible Miniseries Noon to 2 PM (Parish Hall)
Feb. 22 – Donut Weekend
Feb. 25 – Lenten Luncheon Noon at Hammers Street Church of God
Feb. 25 – Mystery Bingo Planning Meeting 6:00 PM
Feb. 27 – Fish Fry Takeouts only 4 – 6 PM or until Sold Out.
Feb. 27 – Stations of the Cross 7:00 PM
Mar. 1 – Bible Miniseries Noon to 2 PM (Parish Hall)
Mar. 1 – SHUC Rosary 5:30 PM Meeting 6:30 PM
Mar. 4 – Lenten Luncheon Noon Hammers Street Church of God
Mar. 6 – Stations Vox Nova 7:00 PM
Mar. 9 – K of C Rosary 6:30 PM Meeting 7:00 PM
Mar.13 – Fish Dinner Take-out only 4-6 PM or until sold out
Mar.15 – Mystery Bingo Doors open at 11:30 AM Games begin at 1:00PM

**Religious Education**

- **2nd grade First Reconciliation Retreat:** Saturday, March 21, 2026, from 9-11:30am
- **Confirmation Retreat:** Friday, March 27, 2026 @ 6pm. Attending: Students, parents and Confirmation sponsors.
- **Service hours:** Grades 1-8 are due on Sunday: April 12, 2026

**Child & Youth Protection:** All Parish volunteers & personnel are required to have themselves fully cleared. Clearances are to be renewed every FIVE years. Stop by the rectory office or Call Sr. Vivian @ 814-736-4279 ext. 104 to check what clearance you need to update. Sr. Vivian will walk you through the process in case you need assistance.

The Sacred Heart Ushers Club will be holding fish dinners during Lent. The dates are Feb. 27, March 13 and March 27. Due to church renovation, the dinners will be drive thru only. The menu will be fried haddock, French fries, haluski, mac & cheese, green beans, Cole slaw, roll and cake, Cost is \$15. Dinners will be from 4pm to 6pm or until sold out. No pre-orders. Pick up will be at the handicap entrance to the church hall on Orchard Street.

*To further the implementation of our Parish Vision to bring the church family closer together, our parish purchased licensures to show some inspirational movies in the months ahead. The first to be shown is the miniseries, The Bible, consisting of 10 episodes depicting Creation through the Book of Revelation. The first showing, consisting of 2 episodes, will be February 22 from Noon to 2:00. The full schedule has been made into a flyer and posted on our bulletin boards, the parish website and our Facebook page. The Bible is rated PG-14 and recommended for ages 14+. The second movie is an all-Parish family event to watch the movie The King of Kings (Rated PG) on Sunday, March 29 after the Palm Sunday 10:30 AM Mass.*

Our Flooring Project began on Monday, January 5<sup>th</sup>. Everything went really well and so we are back in the Church a week earlier than planned! My thanks to all those who were part of the planning for the project, the contractors who provided proposals, the Diocesan Facilities Manager for consulting with us and Brickley Construction, Inc. for pulling it off. They are doing a few more finishing touches this week. Of course, we would not have even considered the project except for the generosity of our parishioners and friends who helped fund the project. We give thanks to God for all we have been given and the ability to take good care of it! Fr. Tom.

Holy Family Parish will hold **Pysanky** classes in the parish hall on Saturday, March 14<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> from 12:30 - 3:00 PM. Attend one or both classes to learn how to make beautiful Ukrainian eggs and carry on this ethnic Lenten tradition! We look forward to seeing friends from past years and welcoming new participants! No artistic skill is needed, just enthusiasm to learn! Children age 5 and older are welcome, but each child must be accompanied by an adult. Please call or email the rectory to register. [holyfamilyportage@dioceseaj.org](mailto:holyfamilyportage@dioceseaj.org).  
*Class size is limited!*

SPRING TEA – St. John the Baptist Altar Rosary Society invite the women of our parish to a Spring Tea, Sunday, April 12 at 12:30 PM. Please RSVP by March 23 to Mary Beyer (814) 495-9092 or Pam Hoke (814) 495-5241.