

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Over the course of the past several weeks, people have asked to have the 8 am Sunday Mass reinstated at St. Joseph's. I'm sure that the request is an honest attempt to bring back a long-time tradition and allow the early Sunday morning Mass attenders to continue coming to their home parish.

As a child growing up in St. Joe's parish, I remember that Sundays actually had 4 Masses—7, 8:30, 10, and 11:30. Of course, in those days there were always at least 2 priests stationed at St. Joe's. In fact, in those days, there were 2 priests stationed at Holy Redeemer, 1 at St. Luke's, 1 at St. Clara/St. Anthony, and 1 at the State Hospital. A quick totaling shows that there were 7 priests covering much of Warren County. Today there are 2 priests covering the same area.

When I was ordained a priest in 1980, there were more than 250 active priests in the Erie Diocese. Today there are less than half that number. That's why the diocese embarked on pastoral planning. Generally, a man spends 6-8 years in seminary formation on the road to ordination. To get back to the number of active priests in 1980, we would have to ordain 13 priests a year for the next 10 or 11 years. The problem with that is we only have 11 total seminarians studying for the diocese spread across all 8 years of formation.

I sympathize with those who want to return to by-gone days. But the present facts work against that move. In fact, having been ordained 37 years, I am still in the younger half of the priests of the diocese. That means that over the next 12-13 years we will lose more than half the number of active priests in the diocese, bringing the total to around 50 active priests.

Pastoral planning is here to stay and continued change is unavoidable. That continued change will be in the direction of down-sizing because there are not going to be enough priests to keep the status-quo. Creative adjustment will be the order of the day.

Fr. Rick

ST. JOSEPH SCHOOL CRAFT SHOW There are tables available for the annual St. Joseph School Craft Show on December 2nd. Please contact Katie Courson via phone 730-6689 or email courson-katie@gmail.com for more information.

FUNERAL LUNCHEON COMMITTEE: Our committee is growing and more hands are needed. Whether your talent is working in the kitchen, setting tables, or baking a cake, we would love to have you. Bereaved families are grateful for this ministry and the volunteers who make it all happen. If you are interested in becoming a part of this rewarding ministry, call Betsy Williams at the office at 723-2090.

ALL SOULS DAY MASS will be celebrated on Nov. 4th at the 5:30pm Mass. The memorial service will include the presentation of a candle during Mass in honor of the deceased by a family member. Candles will be provided to family members of parishioners of St. Joseph Church who have passed away this past year. If you have a family member who has passed away this past year and is not a member of St. Joseph Church, you can purchase a candle in their memory for \$4.00. Please stop by the Parish Office to complete a form to reserve your candle today. All candles can be taken home by the family at the end of Mass.

ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC SCHOOL SPAGHETTI DINNER will be on **October 14th from 4:00pm to 7:30pm**. Take outs will be served from 4:00pm to 8:00pm. Tickets are available at the School office or the Parish office. The price is \$8.00/Adult, \$8.00/Take outs, \$4.00/Children 5-12, Children 4 and under eat free.

****TRANSPORTATION MINISTRY****

Can you help one of your fellow parishioners get to Mass? Our ride share program is in need of committed individuals to drive parishioners to Mass. We could also use volunteers to fill in on an as needed basis when a regular driver is unavailable. Building a pool of drivers is the best way to ensure all of our faithful can celebrate Mass. Parishioners seeking a ride to Mass are very committed to church and it is important that they continue to be part of our St. Joseph community. If you are feeling called to this great ministry or have any questions, please call Betsy Williams at the parish office 723-2090..

PARENT BAPTISMAL CLASS If you are desiring a Baptism this year for your child(ren) or you are expecting a child this year, please join us for this informative and spiritually enriching program. We will meet in the parish office boardroom on Thursday, October 12th from 6:00-7:30pm. Call the parish office to sign up today.

THE DIOCESE OF ERIE FAMILY FEST 2017 will be held on October 15th, 10:00am-5:00pm (4:00pm Mass with Bishop Persico) at the Erie Bayfront Convention Center. The cost is \$10/ person or \$40/ family. **You can register at CatholicFamilyFest.com.** **Registration will include all festivities and food.** National Catholic Speaker, Greg Willits, will be presenting. Scholarships are available, contact Jenn @ 723-2090 .

ROSARY RALLIES FOR THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FATIMA APPARITIONS will be held at 12:00pm, Saturday, October 14th. St. Joseph Church's rosary rally will be held outside across from the Church on Penna. Ave. St. Luke and Holy Redeemer Churches will hold their rosary rallies inside at 12:00pm. Please come and join others throughout the world to honor our Blessed Mother's request to pray the rosary.

ST. JOSEPH SCHOOL SKI CLUB AT PEEK'N PEAK RESORT AND SPA. Information sheets, registration forms, and contact info are available in both the Church and School Offices and need to be **returned to the School Office by Nov. 1st**. Remember you do not have to be a member of St. Joseph Parish or School to sign up with our group. Your family and friends can ski/snowboard at any time and receive our group rate. **Sign up today!**

SPONSOR OF THE WEEK

Warren General Hospital

Dr. Simon Amsdell, M.D., Orthopedic

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Please thank them.

LITURGY INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Sunday, 10/8 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time
8:45am Walter Fill by Ann & Rose @ St. Luke
10:30am Living & Deceased Members of St. Joseph Church
Monday, 10/9 St. Denis, Bishop & Companions, Martyrs, St John Leonardi, Priest
12:00pm Enos Artico by Mary Lehman
Tuesday, 10/10 Weekday
12:05pm Jim Graziano by Barbara Kent
Wednesday, 10/11 St John XXIII, Pope
9:05am Scott Warner by Family
2:00pm Rouse Home—John Kwiatkowski by Mary Ann Morgan
Thursday, 10/12 Weekday
12:05pm Frank & Santa Manfrey by Rita Grillo
Friday, 10/13 Weekday
8:00am Rose & Sam Falvo & David Falvo by Family
Saturday, 10/14 St. Callistus I, Pope & Martyr
5:30pm Jeanette Anderson by Hazeltine Family
Sunday, 10/15 28th Sunday in Ordinary Time
8:45am Living & Deceased Parishioners of St. Luke Church
10:30am Nestor Kohut by Pat O’Dea & Family

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday Jonah 1-1-2:2,11; Gospel Luke 10:25-37
Tuesday Jonah 3:1-10; Gospel Luke 10:38-42
Wednesday Jonah 4:1-11; Gospel Luke 11:1-4
Thursday Malachi 3:13-20b; Gospel Luke 11:5-13
Friday Joel 1:13-15;2:1-2; Gospel Luke 11:15-26
Saturday Joel 4:12-21; Gospel Luke 11:27-28
Sunday Isaiah 25:6-10a; Phil 4:12-14,19-20; Gospel Matthew 22:1-14

THIS WEEK’S SPECIAL EVENTS

Sunday, October 8
8:45am Mass @ St. Luke Church
10:30am Mass
Liturgy of the Word for Children
Monday, October 9 Columbus Day
12:00pm Mass @ St. Luke Church
No School
Tuesday, October 10
St. Joseph School Picture Day
12:05pm Mass
4:30pm Soup Kitchen
Wednesday, October 11
Little Caesar Pizza Kits pick up (Loranger Hall)
9:05am School Mass
10:30am Faith Share (Meyer Hall)
6:30pm RCIA (Meyer Hall)
7:00pm Choir Practice (Church)
Thursday, October 12
12:05pm Mass
12:30pm Eucharist Adoration (Mother’s Chapel)
7:15pm Benediction & Night Prayer (Mother’s Chapel)
6:00pm Baptismal Class (Boardroom)
Friday, October 13
8:00am Mass
Saturday, October 14
4:00pm to 7:30pm St. Joseph School Spaghetti Dinner (Gym)
4:30pm to 5:15pm Reconciliation
5:30pm Mass
Sunday, October 15
Diocesan Wide Family Fest in Erie
8:45am Mass @ St. Luke Church
9:00am 10th-11th grade Confirmation Class
10:30am Mass
Liturgy of the Word for Children
1:00pm Sunrise Rehearsal
6:00pm Praise Team Rehearsal

LITURGICAL MINISTRY SCHEDULES

	<u>Lector</u>	<u>Extraordinary Ministers</u>	<u>Altar Servers</u>
10/14 5:30pm	M Sand-berg	T & R Fadale, D Geiger, *A Kiehl, K Jones, *R Kujawa, Volunteer	S Harvey A Courson R Courson
10/15 10:30am	B Cole	J & R Cecco, B Harvey, *C Feaster, C & J Kostrzewski, *V Amsdell	T Bablak I Goldthwaite J Westover

WEEKLY SANCTUARY CANDLES in Memory of
Jean & John Baker
by Debi & Fred Martin

St. Joseph Church
Weekly Donations - October 1st - \$9458.52
Hurricane Relief Donations—October 1st—\$2876.75
Thank you for your continued generosity!

VOCATIONS ICON
We would like to thank **Gretchen Morrison** for taking the Vocations Icon this week and praying for an increase in vocations here at St. Joseph Catholic Church.

HELPING HANDS
ITEMS NEEDED IN OCTOBER.
BEEF STEW AND SPAGHETTI SAUCE WILL BE COLLECTED during the month of **October for the Salvation Army**. Please continue to check the Helping Hands bulletin board for new items needed. Contact the Parish Office for information or questions @ 723-2090.

SAINT JOSEPH CATHOLIC SCHOOL
If you or your children want to send your/their child/ren to St. Joseph Catholic School, please call the school at 814-723-2030. We have open enrollment.

Prayer Chain If you have prayer intentions, please call Charmell Feaster at 726-0455. Also if you would like to know more about this ministry and be a part of praying for others, give Charmell a call today!