

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

To my family of St. Joseph,

Happy Columbus Day Weekend! Several weeks ago I preached the homily in response to the articles in the Warren newspaper about the Bishop's announcement about our newly merged parish. I mentioned that our Pastoral Council would be discussing how to move forward as the merger of St. Luke with St. Joseph approaches in February. Here are a few of the plans that came from last week's Council meeting.

One-a sub-committee for communication has been formed to put together a positive statement for the Newspaper explaining how the communities of St. Luke and St. Joseph plan on working together to facilitate this transition and minister to our Warren and Youngsville communities. Ideally we will be able to conduct a few meetings and gatherings of the leadership from both our parishes that can be highlighted in that news article.

Two-a sub-committee for prayer will form a plan and calendar for prayer throughout this time of transition and implementation utilizing the prayer services provided by the Diocese of Erie for this purpose.

Three-a sub-committee for community life will consider ways that we can start to foster interaction between our parishes beyond the leadership teams.

Four-a sub-committee for the Weekend Mass Schedule will be formed with representation from St. Joseph, St. Luke, Holy Redeemer, and St. Anthony to create a weekend Mass schedule that can be acceptable to all these communities. As I have said all along, this schedule will most likely involve Saturday Masses at St. Joseph and Holy Redeemer, and one Sunday Mass at each of the four churches involved. Since February 13th is the date for creating our new parishes, this schedule will have to be in place and operative by the weekend of February 18/19 so we cannot wait until then to make those decisions.

Five-it was decided to encourage all the members of St. Joseph to join St. Luke to celebrate Mass on their Patronal feast on **Tuesday, October 18th (the Feast of St. Luke)**. The Mass will be celebrated at 7pm at St. Luke in Youngsville. Please consider making whatever sacrifices you need to in order to be there. Unfortunately I will be on my canonical retreat for the week and cannot be there.

As Bishop Persico stressed at the announcement meetings last month, prayer must be a constant part of this process especially as we have entered this transition stage. So keep praying and may God bless our week and our year of transition ahead!

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Rich

Our Lady of Perpetual Help ...pray for us!

St. Patrick, patron of the Diocese of Erie.... pray for us!

St. Joseph pray for us!

St. Luke pray for us!

Notes from the pastor...

****Holy Hour for Vocations** Sunday, October 9th is Pastor Appreciation Sunday (believe it or not this was a Hallmark invention dating back to 1992). One way you can show your appreciation to me is to join me for a Holy Hour of Adoration from 5:15-6:15pm to pray for vocations in our parish, diocese and church universal. I chose this

time to encourage those participating in the Doors of Mercy Program to be able to come to the holy hour before our session begins at 6:30pm.

****Retreat for Parish and School Staffs** Please pray for the members of our school staff and faculty as well as our parish staff who will be on retreat this Monday (October 10th) at Olmsted Manor. This is a very important part of our formation and I pray that our retreat can be a source of renewal and growth so that we can be effective instruments of God's love and truth in our ministries.

****Warren County School District Teachers Strike** I know that the recent decision made by the teachers union to strike has affected our community significantly. St. Joseph Catholic School will continue to operate as mandated by the Diocesan Office Policy and the county will thankfully provide transportation through the strike. Let us pray for a just and swift solution to this issue so that school can resume.

****Middle School Feasibility Meeting** This Tuesday, October 11th, at 6:30pm in the school library there will be meeting of the committee that will study the feasibility of a middle school at St. Joseph Catholic School. Recall that this study is a result of the Erie Diocesan Pastoral Plan for our schools. Our goal is to make a recommendation to Bishop Persico by April. Dr. Howard Ferguson is the Chairperson of the committee with the following members: Fr. Rich Toohey (pastor St. Joseph), Fr. Jim Gutting (pastor Holy Redeemer), Joe Fire (School Advisory Board), Rob Gatto (School Advisory Board), Pam Nasman (Teacher Rep), Nancy Warner (School Principal), Heather Alexander, Teresa Abplanalp, Carrie Pearson, Andy Sokolski, Marlene Sandberg, Andrea Kiehl, Barb Smelko. Please keep the committee members and their study in your prayers.

****Spaghetti Dinner** Next Saturday we will have our annual spaghetti dinner fundraiser for the school. We are trying Saturday this year due to the challenges of getting volunteers on Sundays. So please make every effort to support the dinner by volunteering or purchasing a dinner. The event will be held from 4-8pm so you can plan on coming to the 5:30pm Mass and staying for dinner.

****Tony Graves Benefit** Tony is a parishioner of Holy Redeemer and has been fighting a significant brain disease for several years. Holy Redeemer will host a benefit next Saturday from 6:30-9:30pm for him and his family to help with the medical bills. Tony was a regular at our 8am Mass before his sickness intensified. I hope our parish can find a way to support Tony AND our spaghetti dinner that day.

****Archdiocese for the Military Services, USA Prayer Cards** When we went on our Divine Mercy Pilgrimage back in August we visited the Catholic Church on the West Point Campus in New York. This was a special opportunity for us to pray for our military at the location where our army is educated and trained. One of our pilgrims acquired some extra prayer cards for the Archdiocese of the Military, which is in charge of the spiritual ministry to all Catholics in the military (which would include some of our parishioners right now). Feel free to pick up one of the prayer cards at the office entrance of the church.

****Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion (EMHC) Volunteers/Training** We are in need of new EMHCs so please consider whether you can help in this important ministry for our Liturgy here at St. Joseph. I am hoping to have a EMHC training on Thursday, October 27th from 6:30-8pm. Please call the office and let us know if you are interested in either of these ministries with the deadline for EMHCs at October 20th so that we can prepare the schedule for November and beyond.

Mercy Meter



In the month of September, we collected: 178 bars of soap, 60 bottles of shampoo, 84 sticks of deodorant and 9 feminine hygiene products. Well done! In October, we are collecting **toothpaste, toothbrushes, dental floss, paper towels, and toilet paper**. This week check on your neighborhood family and see what you can do to help the children that may be home from school due to the strike. Also please plan to attend Mass at St. Luke Church in Youngsville on Tuesday, October 18th at 7pm to celebrate the Feast of Saint Luke.

PARISH NEWS

SPAGHETTI DINNER St. Joseph Catholic School is hosting their spaghetti dinner next Saturday, October 15 from 4-8pm. Dine in or take outs are available. Adults—\$8.00; Children 5-12—\$4.00; Children 4 and under eat free. All take-outs—\$8.00. To purchase tickets, call the school or parish offices. All proceeds benefit St. Joseph Catholic School.



ENVIRONMENT MEETING There will be an environment meeting on Monday, October 10th at 6:30pm in the parish boardroom. All are welcome to come and help us plan the holiday environment of our church.

CCY Our next meeting is Sunday, October 16th from 7:00-8:00pm. Looking forward to seeing you again. Please email Anna at annamarini02@yahoo.com if you have questions.

CCY SOUP & PIE Our Cool Catholic Youth Group will be sponsoring the Soup & Pie luncheon at the Holy Redeemer Chinese Auction on Sunday, October 23rd after their 10:30 am Mass. If you are willing to make Soup or Pie, please contact Jennifer at 688-3842. The meal is by donation, please come out and support our youth and their activities for the coming year. Thank you!

ADULT FAITH FORMATION OPPORTUNITIES With a new year of faith formation beginning, ideally it would not be just our youth seeking to round out their faith formation, but our adults as well. So we are asking all our adults, but especially our parents of the Salt and Light Youth, to commit to coming to the **adult catechetical sessions that we are providing three times throughout the year (Sundays-Oct. 23, Dec. 11, April 23 from 9-10:15am)**. What a witness it would be to our youth if our adults exemplified how important continuing faith formation is by doing it themselves as well! Another opportunity for combined adult and youth formation is a new initiative by the Diocese called "Family Fest." **This Family Faith Rally will be held on Sunday, November 13th from 11am-5pm and include Mass with Bishop Persico at 4pm to be held at the Erie Bayfront Convention Center.** This will be our parish faith formation for that weekend and you will get Salt and Light credit for going. We would love to have enough families going to require a bus from Warren. More information on this exciting opportunity has been sent to all our families and we will provide more reinforcement in the bulletin as the Family Fest nears.

SCRIP The leaves are starting to turn, the air is crisp in the morning, fall is headed our way. As you shop for snacks for football Sunday, do your yard cleanup or make those sports supply purchases,

remember to purchase SCRIP cards first. The proceeds benefit St. Joseph Catholic School with no added expense to you!

DESIGNER BAG BINGO Our CHWC-Rome CCY will host this fun event on November 11, 2016. Tickets are \$30 per person and include 16 games of bingo (9 cards per game); a bingo dauber; light snacks and non-alcoholic beverages (you are welcome to BYOB). You must be 21 to attend. Doors open at 5:30pm and bingo begins at 7pm. For tickets or questions, contact Katie Courson 730-6689 or kcourson@darlingshomecare.com

RCIA NEWS The RCIA sessions for the new year began Wednesday Sept 14, 2016 and the weekly meetings are held on Wednesday evenings. We presently have 4 adults interested in joining the Catholic Church through St. Joseph. Part of the journey of initiation is exposing them to the faith community of our parish. In an effort to involve our parishioners more in this process and to show welcome to these new members, we wanted to reach out and see if anyone is interested in providing a small treat for the weekly Wednesday meetings. Please contact Kathy Amsdell by calling the parish office at 723-2090, text 419-297-6183 or email kamsdell@sjcswarren.org if interested. Above all, please keep the team and inquirers in your prayers.

WORD AMONG US books for October are available by the parish office. A simple request, if you do want a book, please give a \$1.00 donation. This test is running through Christmas. If we get people to donate, we will continue the program. The book has very interesting articles, reflections and daily readings. Pick one up and give it a try for a month. You won't regret it!

AROUND THE AREA

Annual Public Rosary The Annual Public Rosary Rally for America will be held Saturday, October 15th on the banks of the Allegheny River across from the Church at noon. This is a great opportunity to pray with rallies all over America.

Benefit for Tony Graves The benefit for Tony Saturday, October 15th will be at Holy Redeemer Church. Chicken BBQ eat in or take out begins at 5:30pm. Pre-sale tickets are available. 50/50 tickets, basket raffle and bake sale begin at 6pm. Dancing to the sounds of "Generation" (50' & 60's) will be 6:30-9:30pm. Hot dogs, chips, beer, soda and water will be available for purchase. 50/50 tickets and basket raffle tickets are available for presale at Holy Redeemer office. Drawings for the Basket Raffle will begin at 9:30pm. Anyone wishing to donate by check should make out check to: "Anthony Graves." Sounds like a wonderful evening for a terrific young man and his beautiful family.

Worldwide Marriage Encounter If you would like to make your marriage even more special than it already is, consider this weekend which is a positive, simple, common sense private experience between husband and wife that revitalizes marriage. A weekend away renews the romance and excitement you experienced during your dating days. A Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend will help you enjoy life with a new closeness to each other and God. The next weekend will be held November 11-13, 2016 in Bolivar, PA. For more information or apply for the upcoming weekend, please call 412-635-7775 or visit www.yourmarriageisworthit.org

SAINT JOSEPH CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Our annual Christmas Craft Fair is right around the corner. It will be held on Saturday, December 3rd from 10am-4pm. If you are a home crafter, please give Sharon a Call at 726-2936; we have a few tables left.



MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Sunday, 10/9 - Twenty-Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time
 8:00am Living and Deceased Parishioners of Saint Joseph
 10:30am Nestor Kohut by Pat O’Dea and Family
 (Adult Choir)

Monday, 10/10 - Weekday
 8:00am Jeannette Morreals by Judy Lutz

Tuesday, 10/11 - Saint John XXIII
 12:05pm Dick Sowa by Family

Wednesday, 10/12 - Weekday—School Mass
 9:05am Alice Tomasone by Deacon Joe Lucia

Thursday, 10/13 - Weekday
 12:05pm Regis Reisinger by Charles & Catherine Ditz

Friday, 10/14 - Saint Callistus I
 8:00am Scott Warner by Family

Saturday, 10/15 - Saint Teresa of Jesus
 8:00am Elizabeth Rickert by Mom
 5:30pm Living and Deceased Parishioners of Saint Joseph

Sunday, 10/16 - Twenty-Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time
 8:00am John Baker by Family
 10:30am Mr. & Mrs. Frank Manfrey by Family
 (Adult Choir)

Monday Galatians 4:22-24, 26-27, 31—5:1; Gospel - Luke 11:29-32

Tuesday Galatians 5:1-6; Gospel - Luke 11:37-41

Wednesday Galatians 5:18-25; Gospel - Luke 11:42-46

Thursday Ephesians 1:1-10; Gospel - Luke 11:47-54

Friday Ephesians 1:11-14; Gospel - Luke 12:1-7

Saturday Ephesians 1:15-23; Gospel - Luke 12:8-12

Sunday Exodus 17:8-13; 2 Timothy 3:14—4:2; Gospel - Luke 18:1-8

WEEKLY SANCTUARY CANDLES *in memory of*
 John Baker by Family

COMING EVENTS

Sunday, October 9
 NO Faith Formation
 5:15pm Holy Hour for Vocation Awareness Sunday
 (Church)
 6:30pm Doors of Mercy Session (Meyer Hall)

Monday, October 10
 Parish Office Closed—Staff Retreat
 NO School
 6:30pm Environment Meeting (Boardroom)

Tuesday, October 11
 4:30pm Soup Kitchen (Cafeteria)
 6:30pm School Feasibility Study (Library)

Wednesday, October 12
 10:30am Faith Share (Meyer Hall)
 6:00pm Food Basket Meeting (Boardroom)
 6:30pm RCIA (Meyer Hall)
 7:00pm Choir Practice (Church)

Thursday, October 13
 10:00am Doors of Mercy Session (Meyer Hall)
 12:30pm Adoration (Mother’s Chapel)
 7:00pm K of C Meeting (Clubhouse)
 8:15pm Night Prayer & Benediction (Mother’s Chapel)

Saturday, October 15
 2:00pm Wedding—Warner/Nostrant
 4:00pm-8:00pm Spaghetti Dinner (Gym)
 4:30pm Reconciliation (Church)

Sunday, October 16
 9:00am K-9 Faith Formation (School)
 6:30pm Doors of Mercy Session (Meyer Hall)
 7:00pm Middle/High School CCY (Youth Room)

In your charity, pray for the soul of **Robert Peterson**, father of **Marcy and Jay Anderson**, who passed away recently. We extend our sympathy to his family, and ask God’s love and strength to bring them peace and consolation.

LITURGICAL MINISTRY SCHEDULES

	<u>Lector</u>	<u>Extraordinary Ministers</u>	<u>Altar Servers</u>
10/15 5:30pm	A Fadale	A Kiehl, D Labowski, F Perrin, *P Loddell, R Kujawa, M Sowa	M Fadale K Fadale
10/16 8:00am	J Bowler	B & B Long, B Smelko, R & P Osche, R Sharp	J Letko C Shene
10/16 10:30am	S Lauser	J & V Siliano, P & A Webster, *M Trachier, *C Luppino, A Wortman	E Strausser L Johnson L Walker

Liturgy Corner
Month of the Rosary In 1883 in an encyclical dedicated to the Rosary, Pope Leo XIII declared October to be the month of the Rosary and encouraged public recitation of this great devotion in all churches. We will continue our tradition here at St. Joseph of praying the Rosary communally after the first Mass of the day throughout October. Please join us in seeking Our Blessed Mother’s intercession for our parish and diocese in this time of transition, the upcoming elections and all the prayers in our books of intentions and prayer chain.

Banns of Marriage
 Emily Warner and David Nostrant

Weekly Donations - October 2: \$ 9,018
 CSA Pledged: \$124,522; Paid to date: \$ 99,443
 Thank you for your continued generosity!

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

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