

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

To my family of St. Joseph,

A blessed Feast of Christ the King to you! On this last Sunday of the year we come to honor our Lord Jesus Christ as King of the Universe in a special way. As I mentioned last weekend, it is the fact that we have Jesus as our king that we can find peace and consolation no matter what the political conditions are in our country or world (whether you were concerned/disheartened in 2008 and 2012 or now in 2016). This past Wednesday our first reading at Mass was from the book of Revelation (Rev 4:1-11) in which St. John relays his vision of heaven where the 24 elders throw their crowns at the foot of the throne of the Lamb. All of creation will eventually bow down to the Lamb of God, Jesus Christ who is the source and summit of all Kingship and we are so blessed to already understand that and engage in that NOW! We pray that all our political leaders will be blessed with this understanding as well.

Our knowledge of Jesus as our ultimate King and Shepherd also gives us consolation and strength in the midst of transition and uncertainty in our church. We announced last weekend on behalf of Bishop Persico that Fr. John Neff has been placed on administrative leave and I have been assigned as Temporary Administrator for St. Luke in Youngsville and St. Anthony in Sheffield. This is only until Fr. Jim Gutting returns from surgery next weekend at which time he will administer St. Anthony (Fr. Jim continues to report that he is doing very well and is grateful for all your prayers!). The Bishop also asked our prayers for these parishes as well as for Fr. Neff so please keep these intentions in your prayers.

This new development is going to require our four parishes (soon to be two) to move up our implementation of a new Mass schedule in Warren County (originally planned for February). Our goal is to start that new Mass schedule the weekend of December 10/11 but we are still working out the details of what that schedule will be. What we do know is that the leadership of St. Joseph and Holy Redeemer agree that the schedule will include a reduction in weekend Masses at our churches from three to two. In the short term, visiting priests will cover the normal Mass schedule at St. Luke and St. Anthony through the weekend of December 3 / 4. Next weekend we hope to announce the new Mass schedule. In the meantime we must be patient and persevere in prayer as we find "everlasting encouragement" (2 Thes 2:16) in Jesus' words from last weekend's Gospel.... "by your perseverance you will secure your lives." (Lk 21:19)

May God bless our Diocesan and local parishes' period of transition.... and our week 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!

St. Anthony.... pray for us!

Notes from the pastor...

****Pastor Away This Weekend** Thank you to Fr. Robert Sherry from Rockford, IL who is celebrating Masses this weekend at St. Joseph. He is part of the Cross Catholic Outreach. Recall that Fr. Jamie Power and I are the spiritual directors for Divine Mercy Encounter 84 in Erie this weekend. Also, Ed Kelly from our parish is making the retreat so please keep the team and participants in your prayers this weekend.

****Gathering of Prayer and Fellowship** The parishes of St. Luke and St. Joseph are encouraged to come together as we transition to what our future parish encompasses. Our first evening will be December 4 at 6:30pm and St. Joseph will host. Our second evening will be January 22 at 6:30pm and St. Luke will host. We are asking everyone to make an effort to come to these events so we can pray together and get to know one another better.

****Fr. Jamie Power will return to St. Joseph for our School Mass on Wednesday, November 23rd at 9:05am.** This will be his first opportunity to celebrate Mass with our school community as a priest and a great witness to the vocation of priesthood. I hope our parish can make an effort to join Fr. Jamie in prayer that day.

****Thanksgiving Celebration** This week our spiritual family will celebrate our national holiday with the greatest expression of Thanksgiving that we know... the Eucharist! Recall that the word we use for the source and summit of our Catholic life comes from the Greek word for thanksgiving. We will celebrate the Eucharist at 9am on Thursday and you are invited to bring your donations to our Christmas Food Basket Ministry to Mass. At the offertory, you will be asked to bring up your donation (either non-perishable food or monetary- see elsewhere for food options).

****Hunter Blessings** Next weekend at all the Masses we will offer a blessing for all hunters. St. Hubert medals will also be available as we seek the intercession of the patron of hunters for safety.

****Pastoral Associate/ Advancement Director** In response to the Diocesan Plan for Schools which calls for more direct efforts in the area of Advancement and Development, as well as our own parish goal of the last year of growing our offertory so that we could grow our staffing and therefore our ministries, we have hired a new staff member. Betsy Williams, one of our own parishioners and coordinator of our Confirmation program for years, will be our new Pastoral Associate and Director of Advancement starting Tuesday, November 29th. As Director of Advancement for the parish and school, she will focus on building our School Endowment, Planned Giving, Alumni Communication, Marketing, Annual Appeals and other areas necessary for regular revenue for our parish and school. As Pastoral Associate, she will help supervise our outreach ministries both internally (Parish Care and Concern) and externally (Helping Hands and other ministries). Essentially she will be asked to oversee areas of leadership in ministries that are being neglected or done by other staff members (and your pastor) who cannot put the time and energy into them due to other responsibilities. This position was created with the support of our staff, Pastoral Council and Finance Council. If you have any questions, please let me know but in the meantime, pray for Betsy and our staff as we continue to seek ways to grow and build our parish ministries.

****Chapel Improvements** I thank an anonymous donor who gave \$1,000 for chapel improvements in memory of Carrie Randas who died last year and was a regular at daily Mass in that chapel for years. We were able to restore the Our Lady of Perpetual Help Icon (which we have had since 1962 and I consider our main Marian Devotion at St. Joseph) and replace the carpet behind the altar (on order). Thank you to our donor and to all of you who are quietly so generous to our parish family!

****St. Joseph/ St. Luke Transition Phase** Members of St. Joseph and St. Luke Transition Teams met last week in Youngsville for a time of fellowship and discussion on how our parishes can begin to pray and work together during this transition period leading up to the creation of our new parish identity in February. Ideas from this meeting will be shared next week. Please continue to keep this process in your prayers.

Helping Hands

In November and December we are collecting non perishables for the Christmas Baskets to be delivered on December 17th. Be sure to keep checking the board in Meyer Hallway. Many tags were hung up recently; one specifically requesting a gas stove for a needy family. Your generous hearts continue to touch so many lives.

PARISH NEWS

PURSE BINGO THANKS A huge **THANK YOU** to all parish members and friends who helped make our Designer Bag Bingo event a **GREAT** success!! The outpouring of support for our mission team headed to Rome was nothing short of amazing.

CHRISTMAS ANGEL TAGS We will have 150 angel tags from the Salvation Army available again this year. Please see Susan Olson in the main vestibule of the Church after Mass.

CCY BASKET RAFFLE AND BAKE SALE We will have our baskets on display at the Craft Fair December 3rd. Come see what we have this year. Tickets are 1 for \$1; 7 for \$5 and 20 for \$10. Also available to purchase will be many homemade baked goodies for your holiday parties. All proceeds support youth activities right here in Warren County.

CHWC ROANOKE We have 15 spots for Catholic Heart Workcamp Roanoke, VA this July 16-22. The cost is \$150.00 and may be paid in installments. If you are interested, please contact Jennifer at 688-3842. Going into grade 9 up to adults are welcome.

SCRIP is a handy, easy way to shop local and online stores. No need to use credit cards or debit cards. Your personal information is safe. The SCRIP cards give you lots of flexibility. Stop by the parish office to purchase SCRIP cards today! The proceeds benefit St. Joseph Catholic School with no added expense to you!

WORD AMONG US books for December are available by the parish office. A simple request, if you pick up a book, please give a \$1.00 donation or more. 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!

ST. JOSEPH SUNDAY MISSALS We will have the St. Joseph Sunday Missal for 2017 (starts November 27) in the office for \$2.75 each. Stop by if you would like one today!

CHRISTMAS FOOD BASKETS FOR THE NEEDY Beginning Thanksgiving Day through December 16th, St. Joseph will again help the Salvation Army by collecting food and delivering to over 100 of our county's neediest families for Christmas. The food and supplies will be packed on Friday evening, Dec 16th and delivered on Saturday morning, Dec. 17th. We would appreciate donations of nonperishable food, cleaning and paper products. Please leave your donations on the altar steps. **Please do NOT bring in turkeys-we have no space to store them.** Monetary donations are also useful to purchase turkeys, fresh foods locally and from Erie's Second Harvest Food Bank. Please designate on the envelope or check (made out to St. Joseph Church) that the money is for **Christmas Food for the Needy** and the money will be deposited correctly. Please place your envelopes in collection baskets during Mass, leave in the parish office, or mail to the church address. Your contributions and prayers make a real difference to those in need. Thank you for your faithful support.

EXTENDED HOURS FOR EUCHARISTIC ADORATION DURING ADVENT Adoration will begin at 8am and continue until 8:15pm during the 4 weeks of Advent: December 1, 8, 15 and 22. We are in need of 8 additional adorers to cover the morning hours from 8—12. If you can help, please call Becky 726-2849.

RCIA NEWS Please welcome into our St. Joseph community our catechumen, **Heidi Thomas** (sponsor, Greg Stilwell), and our candidates, **Thomas Anderson** (sponsor, Judy Anderson), **Jessica McElhane**y (sponsor, Barb McAvoy), and **Rebecca Mechling** (sponsor, Margie Fincher). We also welcome Denise Pusateri to our RCIA Team. Our thanks to James Kramer for making the crosses that were presented to the catechumen and candidates at the Rite of Acceptance which was held last weekend. Thanks also to team member Barb Walczak for making the poster of those taking part in the Rite. Please note these individuals, seeking them out and greeting them, as well as keeping them in your prayers.

CHILD PROTECTION AND CREATING SAFE ENVIRONMENTS CyberTipline Fights Internet Crimes against Children - The *National Center for Missing and Exploited Children*, the *Federal Bureau of Investigation* and other governments agencies all work together to fight Internet crimes against children. They've established a "CyberTipline," a reporting mechanism for cases of child sexual exploitation including child pornography, online enticement of children for sex acts, child victims of prostitution and unsolicited obscene material sent to a child. Reports may be made 24 hours a day, seven days a week - online at www.cybertipline.com or by calling 800-842-5678. To see what the Diocese of Erie is doing to help create safe environments, check out www.eriecd.org/protectyouth.htm

CROSS CATHOLIC OUTREACH We welcome Father Robert N. Sherry of Cross Catholic Outreach here to celebrate Mass and to speak on behalf of the poor in developing countries. Cross Catholic Outreach was founded to create a meaningful link between parishes in America and the priests and nuns working in the Church overseas in the Caribbean, Africa, Asia, Central and South America.

AROUND THE AREA

Knights of Columbus Turkey Party The K of C will host a Turkey and Ham raffle on Sunday, Nov. 20 from 2-5pm at their North Warren clubhouse. Cost is \$2.00 donation at the door. Refreshments, beverages and door prizes. Must be 21 to attend.

Follow the Star Christmas Concert Holy Redeemer will host the concert this year on Sunday, December 18th, at 3pm. There's a new cast and new songs! Tickets are Adults-\$15.00 and Students-\$5.00. Tickets can be purchased in advanced at Holy Redeemer parish office or at the door the day of the concert. Treat yourself and others to a wonderful afternoon filled with the sounds of Christmas. For additional information please call 723-4444.

Blue Christmas at First Lutheran Church on November 27 at 3pm. Come out and join in sharing and hearing prayers, scripture and music that acknowledge God's presence is for those who mourn, for those who struggle and that God's Word comes to shine light into our darkness. Everyone is welcome.

SAINT JOSEPH CATHOLIC SCHOOL

30th Annual St. Joseph Catholic School Craft Fair will be held on December 3rd from 10am-4pm. There will be over 75 vendors displaying their handmade crafts for Christmas and year round. There will be a homemade lunch available. All proceeds benefit the Accelerated Reader program.



MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Sunday, 11/20 - Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe
 8:00am Robert Kerner by Jeff & Stephanie
 10:30am Living and Deceased Parishioners of Saint Joseph (Adult Choir)

Monday, 11/21 - The Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary
 NO Mass / NO Communion Service

Tuesday, 11/22 - Saint Cecilia
 12:05pm Lucy Notoro by Family

Wednesday, 11/23 - Saint Clement I; Saint Columban;
Blessed Miguel Agustin Pro - School Mass
 9:05am Patrick & Ruth Gerardi by Patricia, Josephine and Charles (School Choir)

Thursday, 11/24 - Saint Andrew Dũng-Lac and Companions
 9:00am Dick Sowa by Family

Friday, 11/25 - Saint Catherine of Alexandria
 12:05pm Jeannette Morreals by Judy Lutz

Saturday, 11/26 - Weekday
 8:00am Ruby Cataldo by Rev. Thomas Trocchio
 5:30pm Living and Deceased Parishioners of Saint Joseph

Sunday, 11/27 - First Sunday of Advent
 8:00am Robert Belleau by Belleau Family
 10:30am Frank Durante, Jr. by Family (Adult Choir)

Monday Revelation 14:1-3, 4b-5; Gospel - Luke 21:1-4
Tuesday Revelation 14:14-19; Gospel - Luke 21:5-11
Wednesday Revelation 15:1-4; Gospel - Luke 21:12-19
Thursday Revelation 18:1-2, 21-23; 19:1-3; Gospel - Luke 21:20-28
Friday Revelation 20:1-4, 11—21:2; Gospel - Luke 21:29-33
Saturday Revelation 22:1-7; Gospel - Luke 21:34-36
Sunday Isaiah 2:1-5; Romans 13:11-14; Gospel - Matthew 24:37-44

WEEKLY SANCTUARY CANDLES in memory of
Robert Franklin, Emma Thompson,
Henry & Katherine Weidner
 by Jackie Franklin

In your charity, please pray for the soul of Gary Vosler, son of **Tina & Roger Gill**, who passed away recently; and for Marilyn Griffin, mother of **Gerald & Laurie Griffin**, who passed away this week. We extend our sympathy to their families and ask God's love and strength to bring them peace and consolation.

COMING EVENTS

Sunday, November 20
 9:00am K-9 Faith Formation (School)
 Confirmation (School)
 1:00pm Christmas Choir Practice 2nd-12th (Church)
 1:45pm Youth Praise Team Rehearsal (Church)

Tuesday, November 22
 Picture Retakes at SJCS (School)
 4:30pm Soup Kitchen (Cafeteria)

Wednesday, November 23
 9:05am School Mass (Church)

Thursday, November 24
 THANKSGIVING DAY
 9:00am Mass (Church)
 11:00am-1:00pm Salvation Army Thanksgiving Day meal (Gym)

Friday, November 25
 Parish Office Closed

Saturday, November 26
 4:30pm Reconciliation (Church)

Sunday, November 27
 NO Faith Formation

Monday, November 28
 Parish Office Closed

LITURGICAL MINISTRY SCHEDULES

	<u>Lector</u>	<u>Extraordinary Ministers</u>	<u>Altar Servers</u>
11/26 5:30pm	C Cataldo	C& K Darling, A Kiehl, T & R Fadale, R Kujawa	E Darling M Walker
11/27 8:00am	R Williams	J & R Cecco, J Hausmann, P Christy, J & P Rickert	E Dippold L Dippold
11/27 10:30am	K Amsdell	V & A Amsdell, M Roudybush, L & *A Tyers, C Feaster, *C Bevacqua	R Shattuck H Shattuck S Johnson

VOCATIONS ICON

We would like to thank **Hank & Holly LeMeur** for taking the Vocations Icon this week and praying for an increase in vocations here at St. Joseph Catholic Church.

Liturgy Corner

Book of Remembrance Recall that for Catholics, November is the traditional month to focus on the "last things" (Heaven, Hell, Purgatory and Judgment) and to intensify our prayers for our beloved dead. We are encouraged to make visits to the Cemetery to reinforce our call to bury and pray for the dead (it is the last of the 7 corporal works of mercy). Our Book of Remembrance will be out and remain out for the entire month of November. In it, you are invited to write the names of your loved ones who have died so that we can pray for them at all our Masses.

Weekly Donations - November 13: \$ 7,500
 CSA Pledged: \$124,572; Paid to date: \$ 107,751
 Thank you for your continued generosity!

SPONSOR OF THE WEEK

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Please thank them.



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!