

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

To my family of St. Joseph,

A blessed Gaudete Sunday to you (3rd Sunday of Advent)! Even though Advent is a time of waiting and reflecting on the second coming of Jesus, we cannot forget the joy that He brought us at his first coming. We rejoice this weekend as the rose color brings us closer to the white of Christmas (not snow but the liturgical color for full celebration and light!). Also on Saturday, December 17th we enter the liturgical days of Late Advent which shifts our focus even more to the joy of Christmas. It is that day that I usually decorate the rectory and we start singing "O Come, O Come Emmanuel" along with the O Antiphons that help intensify our preparation for Christmas.

On a non-liturgical note, this week we also complete the packing and delivery of the Christmas Baskets we have been collecting items for since Thanksgiving. This is one of our parish's major outreaches to the needy in our community and a staple of our Advent/Christmas Season here at St. Joseph so I encourage you to get involved. Friday night we gather at 6:30pm in the school gym to help pack the baskets. Saturday morning I encourage all our delivery people to start the day with Mass at 8am where we offer a special blessing for our deliverers. We then have breakfast together and share some fellowship before heading out on deliveries around 9am. This ministry is a great way to continue the momentum of the Jubilee Year of Mercy that we just concluded and to live out the Corporal Works of Mercy of feeding the hungry and giving drink to the thirsty.

I hope to see you there and may God bless our Advent Season.... 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!

Notes from the pastor...

****NEW MASS SCHEDULE STARTING THIS WEEKEND** The TEMPORARY Mass schedule for the Warren County Parishes.

Saturday:	4:30pm	Holy Redeemer
	5:30pm	St. Joseph
Sunday:	8:30am	Holy Redeemer
	9am	St Luke
	10:30am	St. Joseph
	11am	St. Anthony

We will try this until the end of the Faith Formation Year in April and then reevaluate. We are aware that this will require sacrifices and changes for some and I continue to hope and pray that we can be open to this change and allow God to help us make the best of it. As far as OFFETORY envelopes are concerned, you can put your envelope in the collection at any church and it will be sent to the parish for which it is designated.

****Parish Transfers due to Mass Changes** Some people have asked whether they should transfer parishes if they will be going to the Holy Redeemer Masses due to the change in Mass schedule and no early Mass being available at St. Joseph. I would strongly encourage you to not change parishes right now. This schedule is temporary and we do not know where things will end up next summer.

Do not go through the effort of paperwork and registration only to find that things will change again in a few months. Let's get through the next six-eight months and then re-evaluate where we stand and which faith community it makes most sense for you to commit. And as always, I am happy to discuss any of this with you if you are discerning.

****Advent Penance Services and extra times** Remember that there is no better way to make more room in our hearts for receiving Jesus than to be cleansed and forgiven in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. The schedule for local Penance Services is Sunday, December 11th at 3pm at St. Thomas in Corry; **Tuesday, December 13th at 7pm at Holy Redeemer** and Tuesday, December 20th at 7pm at St. Luke in Youngsville. Also there will be extra times for Confession- Saturday, December 17th from 4:00-5:15pm; Tuesday, December 20th at 12:35-1pm; Wednesday, December 22nd from 4-5pm; Thursday, December 23rd from 11:30am-12noon; and Saturday, December 24th from 8:30-9am. Also feel free to make an appointment with me by calling the parish office.

****Follow the Star** Next Sunday Holy Redeemer is hosting the Follow the Star Concert that we were blessed to host in 2013 and 2014. This is an extremely talented group of musicians and singers who help us get into the true spirit of Christmas through a self-composed program reflecting on Jesus' coming to us. I would highly recommend this concert to anyone needing a little extra dose of spirituality in this over-commercialized season.

****Transition Gatherings with St. Luke** Thank you to those who attended the Gathering last Sunday- there were over 100 people combined from both parishes. This is an essential part of fostering an effective transition and allowing God to bring us new life and vibrancy as we approach our merger with St. Luke in Youngsville. The next **Gatherings for Prayer and Fellowship is scheduled for Sunday, January 22, 2017 at 6:30pm at St. Luke.** These gatherings are an important way for both communities to show that we are invested in working at making this a smooth and effective transition. I really hope that all of us at St. Joseph make an effort to be a part of this to help pray for this transition and build up our "new" community.

****Transition Prayer** To reinforce that we are at a new stage in the planning process as we move toward implementation, our Pastoral Council has composed a new prayer that we will say every weekend after the intercessions in order to keep this intention at the forefront of our spiritual minds. It can be found on the back of the Mass of Renewal Booklets and below and I encourage you to say it in your personal daily prayers as well.

Transitioning Prayer

Almighty God, we give you thanks and praise for the many blessings bestowed on St. Luke and St. Joseph.

We have come this far in this pastoral planning process and step into the future with courage and hope.

We praise you God, who bring us healing and salvation, who always provide for your people, and who lead us through uncertainty to a place of peace and trust.

We give thanks to you God who give us all good things through Christ our Lord.

Amen

Helping Hands



We are collecting non perishables for the Christmas Baskets to be delivered on December 17th. We have hung many new tags this week on the board in Meyer Hallway. We have an immediate need for beds for 4 different households. Your generous hearts continue to touch so many lives.

PARISH NEWS

CONFIRMATION Our 11th grade Confirmation students are answering the call to be confirmed this weekend. They will be recognized at the 10:30 am mass. Please keep the following students in your prayers: **Josh Chimenti, Laura Courson, Kelsey Fadale, Carley Fredericks, Kelsey Fredericks, Connor Guiffre, Sabrina Johnson, Paige Mineweaser, Trinity Pojar, Troy Shattuck, Nick Smelko, Haley Spicer, Jacob Tichenor and Abby Waterman.** Come Holy Spirit!

CCY BAKE SALE Thank you to the adults and students who worked the bake sale at the craft fair last weekend and to all those who baked we are so grateful for your efforts on behalf of our youth ministry programs. We raised \$371.85 for CCY general activities.

The **CCY LUNCHEON** at the Saint Joseph School Craft Fair was a huge success thanks to all those who worked and a special thank you to Katie Courson who headed up the event. We raised \$986.66 which we will use to support students attending CHWC in summer 2017.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS will meet at 7pm on December 15th at the Clubhouse. All members are invited to attend.

CHRISTMAS DECORATING It's that time of year again time to decorate the church for Christmas. Please put the following dates on your calendar: December 23rd starting at 10:00am decorate the church for Christmas and January 10th starting at 10:00am take down Christmas decorations and dispose of Christmas trees. This is open to anyone who would like to help so if you know of anyone else just let them know. Call Vilma if you have any questions: 726-1638.

CCY NEWS There is a CCY Middle School Youth Meeting on Dec. 11th from 7-8 pm. Dec. 18th from 6-8pm is **MOVIE NIGHT**-all CCY members are invited for a great time to enjoy the holidays with each other. Hope to see you there!

CCY BASKET RAFFLE Just a reminder that the baskets are at Holy Redeemer for the next week. You can purchase tickets at morning and weekend Masses until December 18th. Tickets can be purchased at Holy Redeemer and they will be on display there.

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 The gift season is upon us and gift cards always fit! Stop by the parish office, email or call in your order. The deadline to ensure the cards will be here for Christmas is December 12th.

LAST WEEK FOR CHRISTMAS FOOD FOR THE NEEDY It is not too late to donate to our Christmas Food for the Needy project! You may place your nonperishable donations on the altar steps. **Please do not bring turkeys--we have no space to store them.**

Monetary donations are also needed to purchase perishables. Please make out your check to St. Joseph Church and designate on the envelope or check that the money is for **Christmas Food for the Needy**. You may place your envelopes in collections baskets during Mass, leave in the parish office or mail to the church address. We are looking for help **packing** the boxes on **Friday, December 16th at 6:30pm** in the school gym. We also need help to **deliver** the boxes to the families on **Saturday, December 17th**. Immediately following the 8:00am Mass (on the 17th) we will gather in the cafeteria for refreshments and directions for delivery. **Please bring a wagon, dolly or cart with you** (if you own one) to help with the packing and delivering of boxes. If you are not able to be present, please support our project with your **Prayers!** Confirmation and Salt & Light students be sure to sign in (name and grade) to get credit for service hours.

OPERATION RICE BOWL We have been blessed to receive funds from the Diocese from the Operation Rice Bowl collections. This year we received \$314.00 for the Soup Kitchen. Thank you for your continued support of this important ministry in our diocese.

Liturgy Corner

Warren Area Christmas Mass Schedule

December 24th—Christmas Eve

4:30pm	St. Joseph
5:00pm	St. Anthony
6:30pm	St. Luke
10:00pm	Holy Redeemer
12:00am (Midnight)	St. Joseph

December 25th—Christmas Day

9:00am	Holy Redeemer
10:00am	St. Joseph

AROUND THE AREA

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.

Advent Services at United Methodist The First United Methodist Church in Warren will host Thursday noon services followed by a luncheon and dessert. This is a fantastic Advent opportunity on Dec 1, 8, 15, & 22.

Dear Parishioners: Cross Catholic Outreach wishes to thank you for the welcome you extended to Father Sherry on our recent visit to your parish. On behalf of the poorest of the poor, we thank you for having shared in their lives. May our Lord continue to bless all of you for your love and support.

SAINT JOSEPH CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Our Christmas Craft Fair last weekend was a huge success. Thank you to everyone who participated in or came to the fair. Very soon we will be sending out invites to all who came to our Reverse Raffle last February. The raffle is scheduled to be held on February 11, 2017. This is always a fun evening. If you want to be a part of the raffle, be sure to return your response as soon as possible.

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Sunday, 12/11 - Third Sunday of Advent
 9:00am Mass at St. Luke in Youngsville
 10:30am Joan DeStefano by Carl DeStefano Family
 (Praise and Worship)

Monday, 12/12 - Our Lady of Guadalupe
 8:00am Robert Harrington by Mike & Lisa Lewis
 9:00am Mass at St. Luke in Youngsville

Tuesday, 12/13 - Saint Lucy
 12:05pm Lucy Notoro by Family

Wednesday, 12/14 - Saint John of the Cross—School Mass
 9:05am Ruby Cataldo by Gilbert & Kathleen Knorr
 and George & Margie Fleasler

Thursday, 12/15 - Advent Weekday
 8:00am Francine Vavala by Becky Harper

Friday, 12/16 - Advent Weekday
 8:00am Nicholas Elinsky by Danielson & Troyan Families

Saturday, 12/17 - Late Advent Weekday
 8:00am Mae Coyne by Joanne
 5:30pm Living and Deceased Parishioners of Saint Joseph

Sunday, 12/18 - Fourth Sunday of Advent
 9:00am Mass at St. Luke in Youngsville
 10:30am George Ziki by Judy
 (Adult Choir)

Monday Zechariah 2:14-17 or Revelation 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab;
 Gospel - Luke 1:26-38 or Luke 1:39-47

Tuesday Zephaniah 3:1-2, 9-13; Gospel - Matthew 21:28-32

Wednesday Isaiah 45:6b-8, 18, 21b-25; Gospel - Luke 7:18b-23

Thursday Isaiah 54:1-10; Gospel - Luke 7:24-30

Friday Isaiah 56:1-3a, 6-8; Gospel - John 5:33-36

Saturday Genesis 49:2, 8-10; Gospel - Matthew 1:1-17

Sunday Isaiah 7:10-14; Romans 1:1-7; Gospel - Matthew 1:18-24

WEEKLY SANCTUARY CANDLES in memory of
Brian Good by Family

COMING EVENTS

Sunday, December 11
 9:00am K-9 Faith Formation (School)
 10:30am "Call to be Confirmed" Mass for Confirmation
 Candidates (Church)
 Coffee / Donuts after Mass (Cafeteria)
 11:30am Christmas Pageant Practice (Church)
 1:00pm Christmas Choir Practice (Church)
 3:00pm Corry Penance Service (Corry)
 7:00pm MS CCY (Youth Room)

Monday, December 12
 SJCS Santa's Workshop (Meyer Hall)

Tuesday, December 13
 SJCS Santa's Workshop (Meyer Hall)
 4:30pm Soup Kitchen (Cafeteria)
 7:00pm Warren Area Penance Service at Holy Redeemer

Wednesday, December 14
 SJCS Santa's Workshop (Meyer Hall)
 10:30am Faith Share (Boardroom)
 6:30pm RCIA (Boardroom)
 7:00pm Choir Practice (Church)

Thursday, December 15
 SJCS Santa's Workshop (Meyer Hall)
 8:30am Adoration (Mother's Chapel)
 11:30am SJCS Christmas Feast (Gym)
 5:30pm School Advisory Meeting (School)
 6:45pm Finance Council Meeting (Boardroom)
 8:15pm Night Prayer/Benediction (Mother's Chapel)

Friday, December 16
 SJCS Santa's Workshop (Meyer Hall)
 6:30pm Christmas Food Baskets packing (Gym)

Saturday, December 17
 9:00am Christmas Food Basket Delivery
 4:30pm Reconciliation (Church)

Sunday, December 18
 9:00am K-9 Faith Formation (School)
 Confirmation (School)
 11:30am Christmas Pageant Practice (Church)
 1:00pm Christmas Choir Practice (Church)
 3:00pm Follow the Star Christmas Concert
 (Holy Redeemer)
 6:00pm MS/HS CCY Movie Night and
 Basket Raffle Drawing (Youth Room)

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

Thank you to everyone who expressed condolences on
 behalf of my mom's passing. It has been overwhelming the love
 and support for us at this difficult time.
Patty & John Rickert

LITURGICAL MINISTRY SCHEDULES

	<u>Lector</u>	<u>Extraordinary Ministers</u>	<u>Altar Servers</u>
12/17 5:30pm	H/H LeMeur	C & K Darling, T & R Fadale, G & P Peck	I Darling J Darling
12/18 10:30am	B Ives	V & K Amsdell, M Roudybush, *L & A Tyers, C Feaster, C Bevacqua	T Bablak L Johnson S Johnson

SPONSOR OF THE WEEK

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723-9270

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 paid advertising of the sponsors that we can publish the bulletin.
Please thank them.

Weekly Donations - December 4: \$ 12,515
 CSA Pledged: \$124,697; Paid to date: \$ 110,844
 Thank you for your continued generosity!

