

**FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK**

Pope Francis in one of his early references to the Church called the Church a "Mash hospital" of mercy for the world. That reference goes hand-in-hand with the Vatican II document Lumen Gentium (The Dogmatic Constitution on the Church) statement that after the resurrection Christ sent his Spirit and through the Spirit established the Church as the "universal sacrament of salvation".

When we understand that the focus of the Church is not itself, but the salvation of the world, then we better understand points I was trying to make in last week's bulletin column. The focus of liturgical prayer is the salvation of the world. We who join together at Mass are nourished by the Body and Blood of Christ to be instruments of that salvific effort. The final words at Mass really are meant to tell us to get out there and bring the Lord's love and mercy to the world.

When we were baptized, we were anointed as priest, prophet and king. We sometimes hear that we are a kingdom of priests. Baptism ushers us into that priesthood, not the ministerial priesthood of ordination, but the priesthood of the baptized. The ministry of all priests is outward looking...to sacrifice for others. So when we join our voices in liturgical prayer, we join our voices with Christ for the salvation of the world.

Because of the busy-ness of our lives, sometimes we are not able to fulfill our role as priest as well as we would like. Sometimes we forget that we are commissioned at the end of Mass to be instruments of that salvific effort. But in the end, every small act of kindness, every effort to forgive, every time we help lift another's burden, we are doing what we have been commissioned to do.

*Father Rick*

**PARISH NEWS**

**WARREN CATHOLIC COMMUNITY ADVENT Penance SERVICES**

- 3:00pm Sunday, December 16th—Corry @ St Thomas Church
- 7:00pm Tuesday, December 18th — Youngsville @ St Luke Church
- 7:00pm Wednesday , December 19th —Warren @ Holy Redeemer

**THANK YOU!**

A special thank you to Susan Olson for her time and dedication to the Salvation Army Angel Tag Project. Through the generosity of St. Joseph Parish parishioners needy children will receive wonderful Christmas gifts this year. Thank you all for your amazing support of our community.

**APPRECIATION DINNER:** Calling all volunteers! January 5<sup>th</sup> after the 5:30 Mass we would like to show you how much you are appreciated. Join us for a relaxing dinner and enjoy the fellowship of your church family. Sign up sheets are at the doors of the Church or you can call the Parish Office to sign up.



**VOCATION ICON**

A Special Thank You to The Courson Family for praying for vocations to the Priesthood, Diaconate, and Religious Life in our Parish and the Erie Diocese this week! If you would like to take the Vocation Icon for the week please signup in the back of the Church or call the Parish Office.



**VOLUNTEERS TO DECORATE FOR CHRISTMAS**

We are in need of volunteers to help put up the trees, the outside wreaths, garland, arrange flowers and set up the Nativity set for Christmas **on Saturday, December 22nd at 9:00am**. There is a lot to do and many hands are needed. So come and enjoy! All are welcome!



**LAST WEEK FOR CHRISTMAS FOOD FOR THE NEEDY**

It is not too late to donate to our Christmas Food for the Needy project!! Each and every donation is important! Some ideas for nonperishable donations are peanut butter, canned meats, tuna fish, pasta, tomato sauces, spam, soups, mac and cheese, chili, canned vegetables and fruit, cereals, oatmeal, mixes of all kinds (muffin, cookie, cake, pudding, jello, brownie, pancake, bread, etc). Donations of paper products such as paper towels, toilet paper and napkins are needed as well as hygiene/cleaning supplies (soap, toothpaste, shampoo, plus dish soap and laundry detergent. 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 turkeys and fresh foods. 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 21st at 6:30pm** at Holy Redeemer Church gym. We also need help to **deliver** the boxes to the families on **Saturday, December 22nd** We will gather for refreshments and directions for delivery at 9:00am at Holy Redeemer Church gym. **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.**

**CATHOLIC HEART WORKCAMP 2019**

Join us in Cumberland, Maryland the week of June 16th-22nd. Those students going in 8th grade (in 2019) through 12th grade and adults are invited. Cost is \$175.00 per person and participation in fundraising. Pick up a brochure at the doors of the Church and in the gathering space at St Luke Church and mark your calendars!



**The CCY basket raffle will be back at St. Joseph Church this weekend. The drawings will be December 16th! Don't miss out, get your tickets this weekend! Come and Support CHWC!**

**SPONSOR OF THE WEEK**

**KINZUA**

**HEALTHCARE & REHABILITATION**

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Please patronize the sponsors of our bulletin. It is through the paid advertising of the sponsors that we can publish the bulletin.

**Please thank them**

## LITURGY INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

<b>Sunday, 12/16</b>	<b>Third Sunday in Advent</b>
<b>8:00am</b>	(St Luke) For the Living & Deceased Members of St Joseph Parish
<b>10:45am</b>	Lyle Watkins by Catherine Watkins Atwood & Bruce Atwood
<b>Monday, 12/17</b>	<b>Late Advent Weekday</b>
<b>12:00pm</b>	David Miller by Pat & Ralph Christy
<b>Tuesday, 12/18</b>	<b>Late Advent Weekday</b>
<b>12:05pm</b>	Joan DeStefano by Carl DeStefano Family
<b>Wednesday, 12/19</b>	<b>Late Advent Weekday</b>
<b>9:05am</b>	Joseph B. Pace by Family
<b>Thursday, 12/20</b>	<b>Late Advent Weekday</b>
<b>12:05pm</b>	Alice Tomasone & Laurie Tomasone by Family
<b>Friday, 12/21</b>	<b>St Peter Canisius, Priest and Doctor of the Church</b>
<b>8:00am</b>	Vincent Pace by Mike & Lisa Lewis
<b>Saturday, 12/22</b>	<b>Late Advent Weekday</b>
<b>5:30pm</b>	Shirley Fassenmyer by Sonny & Judith Buckholtz & Families
<b>Sunday, 12/23</b>	<b>Fourth Sunday in Advent</b>
<b>8:00am</b>	(St Luke) M/M Joe Kwiatkowski by Mary Ann Morgan Family
<b>10:45am</b>	For the Living and Deceased Members of St Joseph Parish

## LITURGICAL MINISTRY SCHEDULES

	<u>Lector</u>	<u>Extraordinary Ministers</u>	<u>Altar Servers</u>
<b>12/22</b>	M Sandberg	G & P Peck, P Rickert, D Geiger, K Jones, J Anderson, Volunteer	M Alexander
<b>5:30pm</b>			N Alexander
<b>12/23</b>			M Fadale
<b>8:00am</b>	Janet Mack	M Skerda, M Donahue	Joey Mack
<b>10:45am</b>	M Smelko	*K & V Amsdell, *C Bevacqua, R Beyer, P Christy, S Cole, *C Luppino	P Shene E Strausser J Westover

12-19—The Rouse Home— Marge & Neil Himer  
12/23-8:00am Mass Ushers—Doug & Diana Sandberg

### WEEKLY SANCTUARY CANDLES IN MEMORY OF

*Richard Sowa by Wife*

In your charity please pray for the soul of **Jane Maher** sister of **Rose Troyan** who passed away this past week. We extend our sympathy to her family and friends and ask God's love and strength to bring them peace and consolation.

### **St. Joseph Parish Weekly Offering—December 8th & 9th**

St Joseph - \$14050.75

St Luke - \$906.00

### **Second Collection for Retirement Fund for Religious**

St Joseph—\$1518.00

St Luke —\$431.00

### **Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary**

St Joseph—\$935.00

St Luke—\$130.00

*Thank you for your continued support of our Parish!*

ST JOSEPH PARISH SOUP KITCHEN serves dinners each Tuesday at 4:30pm. All are Welcome!

## READINGS FOR THE WEEK

<b>Monday</b>	Genesis 49:2, 8-10; Gospel Matthew 1:1-17
<b>Tuesday</b>	Jeremiah 23:5-8; Gospel Matthew 1:18-25
<b>Wednesday</b>	Judges 13:2-7,24-25a; Gospel Luke 1:5-25
<b>Thursday</b>	Isaiah 7:10-14; Gospel Luke 1:26-38
<b>Friday</b>	Song of Songs 2:8-14; Gospel Luke 1:39-45
<b>Saturday</b>	Samuel 1:24-28; Gospel Luke 1:46-56
<b>Sunday</b>	Micah 5:1-4a; Hebrews 10:5-10; Gospel Luke 1:39-45

## SPECIAL EVENTS THIS WEEK

### Sunday, December 16th

**8:00am (St Luke) Mass**

9:15-10:30am EDGE FF @ HR

**10:45am Mass**

DOG Liturgy of the Word for Children

3:00pm Penance Service in Corry @ St Thomas

6:00-8:00pm—CCY Movie Night for all ages (St Joseph)

### Monday, December 17th

**12:00pm (St Luke) Mass**

7:00pm Penance Service in Kane @St Callistus

### Tuesday, December 18th

10:30am (St Luke) Bible Study

**12:05pm Mass**

4:30pm Soup Kitchen

**7:00pm Penance Service in Youngsville @ St Luke**

### Wednesday, December 19th

**9:05am School Mass**

11:30am SJCS Christmas Feast

12:00-2:30pm SJCS Pictures with Santa

**7:00pm Penance Service in Warren @ Holy Redeemer**

### Thursday, December 20th

**12:05pm Mass**

**12:30pm Eucharistic Adoration**

**7:15pm Evening Prayer**

### Friday, December 21st

**8:00am Mass**

6:30pm Pack Christmas Food Baskets @ Holy Redeemer

### Saturday, December 22nd

9:00am Deliver Christmas Food Baskets @ Holy Redeemer

9:00am Decorate Church for Christmas

**4:30-5:15pm Sacrament of Reconciliation**

**5:30pm Mass**



### **Thank You for your continued generosity!**

Items being collected in **January**:

St Joseph Church: **Toilet paper & Paper Towels**

Items being collected in **December**:

St Luke Church: **Soup, beef stew, canned meat & tuna**

You are invited:

**Dec 21st at 6:30pm** we will be packing Christmas Food Baskets at Holy Redeemer. Delivery Date is Dec 22nd at 9:00am at Holy Redeemer.

**Come and be part of this amazing project for the needy of our community!**