

**FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK**

Several months ago I was counseling a State Trooper about to retire. In the course of the conversation he mentioned a desire to go back to church. Even though he was raised Catholic, he wasn't sure going back to a Catholic church was the right thing for him. I told him simply "Don't settle for an echo chamber." What did I mean by that? I was telling him not to go to a church that only said things he wanted to hear, but to find one that challenged him to grow.

We live in a society that gravitates toward the echo chamber, causing a polarization not only in our society, but also in our Church. Polarization means that we move away from the middle toward the extremes holding that our opinion is more important than the person we may be talking with. Think about politics. At times the political parties barely seem civil toward the other. That's what an echo chamber does. It cuts off any challenge to our opinion by surrounding ourselves with only like-minded thinkers. But the echo chamber also cuts off growth.

Lent is a great time of the year to figure out if we are living in an echo chamber. It's easy enough. We just need to watch our reaction to an opinion we might disagree with. Do we continue to appreciate the person we are talking with, or do we write them off?

Almsgiving, prayer, and fasting cut across all sides of the aisle to draw us closer to Jesus. After all Jesus reminds us in St Matthew's Gospel that God rains on the just and the unjust. God cares for each of us regardless of our opinion because we are so much more than an opinion. Hopefully, this Lent we'll not only realize that about ourselves, but about all those we encounter.

Let's move out of the echo chamber and into the Presence of Christ.

*Fr. Rick*

**PARISH NEWS**

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS THROUGH LENT** We have Stations of the Cross on Fridays at 6:30pm and School stations on Tuesdays at 12:45pm.

**PAINT IT FORWARD FUNDRAISER PAINT PARTY** to help raise money for the RCIA Candidates Service Project "Make a Dream Come True!" It will take place on Wednesday, March 8 from 6-8pm in Meyer Hall/\$40.00 registration fee payable to St. Joseph Church. To register, call Kathy Amsdell at 723-2090 Ext. 14 or email her at kamsdell@sjcswarren.org. **There are only a few seats left!** Each participant will be led step by step by an artist to paint a picture with a Lenten theme. All supplies will be provided. You will leave with your beautiful painting. All proceeds will go toward the RCIA



During March, we are asking you to help fill the shelves at the Salvation Army with **laundry soap, dish detergent, Clorox wipes, paper towels, and toilet paper.** Baskets to put your donations can be found at the exits of the Church.

Candidates Service Project of sending a deserving family to a Cleveland Cavalier basketball game, providing the bus trip, pre-game dinner, t-shirts, and an "on court high five players greeting." If you do not want to participate in the painting evening, donations will gladly be accepted. Just drop them off at the church office or put them in the collection basket clearly marked "Paint it Forward." Thank you.

**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS ST. PATRICK'S DAY CELEBRATION** On Saturday March 18<sup>th</sup>, the K of C will be celebrating St. Patrick's Day at the clubhouse in North Warren. The celebration will feature a FREE food buffet and soft drinks and is open to ALL Warren, Youngsville, and Sheffield Council members as well as any guests they would like to bring. Any prospective K of C members are welcome to come too! Happy hour will begin at 6:00pm with dinner starting at 7:00pm. Please join our celebration of St. Patrick's Day with food, fellowship and college basketball's March Madness on the big screen. RSVP to Ralph Gallo at 723-4733.

**EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION DURING LENT** "Breathtaking" was the comment of 4<sup>th</sup> grader Sophie Walker after a session of Eucharistic Adoration during Catholic Schools Week. Consider making this wondrous Sacrament an essential part of your Lent. Hours for Lent: 8am-8:15pm. Night prayer and Benediction begin at 8:15. To sign up for a holy hour contact Arlene 723-1726 or Becky 726-2849 or just drop in whenever convenient.

**40 CANS FOR 40 DAYS OF LENT** We will have a basket by the parish office for you to put one can of nonperishable food items for each day of Lent. All donated foods will be used at the Youngsville Food Pantry. Matthew 25:40 "Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me."

**PIEROGI SALE** St. John Church in Tidioute will be selling frozen pierogi as a fundraiser during Lent this year; every Saturday from March 4<sup>th</sup> through April 8<sup>th</sup> from 1pm to 4pm in the church's center. We will be making potato & cheese and potato & sauerkraut pierogi. Pre-order each week by Thursday to guarantee availability. Walk-ins are welcome. Call Fran O'Hosky 484-7157 to pre-order. Cost is \$9 /dozen or \$6/half dozen.

**2232 MEN'S CONFERENCE** The 4<sup>th</sup> Annual 2232 Men's Conference will be on Saturday, March 25<sup>th</sup> at the Erie Warner Theatre, 811 State Street, Erie. Registration starts at 8am. The conference starts at 9am and lasts until 3:30pm. Cost is \$40 per person, but group rates are available. Please contact Troy McFate, 563-7339 if you are interested in attending.

**SAINT JOSEPH TABLE** Sunday, March 19<sup>th</sup> is the Feast of Saint Joseph. We will have a 5:00pm Mass followed by a tureen dinner at 6:30pm. (There will be no 10:30am Mass) The meat, beverages and table service will be provided, each family is asked to bring a dish to share. All donations to the Saint Joseph Table will benefit the Soup Kitchen. For reservations call the Church office at 723-2090 or stop in.

**GIRL SCOUT COOKIES** The Girl Scouts will be selling cookies after 10:30am Mass next weekend, March 12<sup>th</sup> in the front vestibule. Please help support these young women.



**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!

**MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK**

**READINGS FOR THE WEEK**

**Sunday, 3/5—First Sunday of Lent**  
 8:45am Mass at St. Luke in Youngsville  
 10:30am Living & Deceased Parishioners of Saint Joseph (Adult Choir)

**Monday, 3/6 - Lenten Weekday**  
 12:00pm Mass at St. Luke in Youngsville

**Tuesday, 3/7 - Lenten Weekday**  
 12:05pm Jim Morrison by Gretchen Morrison

**Wednesday, 3/8 - Lenten Weekday**  
 905am Alex Troyan by Rose & Family—School Mass  
 2:00pm Mass at the Rouse Home

**Thursday, 3/9 - Lenten Weekday**  
 12:05pm James & Josephine Puleo by Family

**Friday, 3/10 - Lenten Weekday**  
 8:00am Florence Scalise by Mike & Lisa Lewis

**Saturday, 3/11 - Lenten Weekday**  
 8:00am Louis Rizzardi by Mike & Lisa Lewis  
 5:30pm Ruth & Joseph Acks by Estate (Adult Choir)

**Sunday, 3/12 - Second Sunday of Lent**  
 8:45am Mass at St. Luke in Youngsville  
 10:30am Living & Deceased Parishioners of Saint Joseph (Youth Mass)

**Monday** Leviticus 19:1-2, 11-18; Gospel - Matthew 25:31-46

**Tuesday** Isaiah 55:10-11; Gospel - Matthew 6:7-15

**Wednesday** Jonah 3:1-10; Gospel - Luke 11:29-32

**Thursday** Est C:12, 14-16, 23-25; Gospel - Matthew 7:7-12

**Friday** Ezekiel 18:21-28; Gospel - Matthew 5:20-26

**Saturday** Deuteronomy 26:16-19; Gospel - Matthew 5:43-48

**Sunday** Genesis 12:1-4a; 2 Timothy 1:8b-10; Gospel - Matthew 17:1-9

WEEKLY SANCTUARY CANDLES *in memory of*  
 Robert A. Rich & Frank A. Rich by Family

**COMING EVENTS**

**Sunday, March 5**  
 9:00am K-9 Faith Formation (School)  
 10-11 Confirmation (School)  
 10:30am RCIA Rite of Sending at Mass (Church)  
 11:00am-5:00pm Pickleball Tournament (Gym)  
 11:30am Cherub Rehearsal (Church)  
 1:00pm Sonrise Rehearsal (Church)  
 3:00pm The Gospel of John (Meyer Hall)  
 7:00pm MS CCY (Youth Room)

**Monday, March 6**  
 4:30pm RCIA Team Meeting (Meyer Hall)

**Tuesday, March 7**  
 12:45pm School Stations of the Cross (Church)  
 4:30pm Soup Kitchen (Cafeteria)

**Wednesday, March 8**  
 9:05am School Mass (Church)  
 10:30am Faith Share (Meyer Hall)  
 2:00pm Mass at the Rouse Home (Youngsville)  
 6:00pm RCIA (Meyer Hall)  
 7:00pm Choir (Church)

**Thursday, March 9**  
 8:00am Adoration (Mother's Chapel)  
 6:00pm Daisy Scouts (Meyer Hall)  
 8:15pm Night Prayer & Benediction (Mother's Chapel)

**Friday, March 10**  
 9:00am Pre-K Round Up (School)  
 5:00pm K of C Fish Fry in Sheffield (St. Paul Center)  
 6:30pm Stations of the Cross (Church)

**Saturday, March 11**  
 4:30pm Reconciliation (Church)

**Sunday, March 12**  
 9:00am K-9 Faith Formation (School)  
 2nd Grade Retreat (School)  
 9:30am Sonrise Rehearsal (Church)  
 10:00am Cherub Rehearsal (Church)  
 3:00pm The Gospel of John (Meyer Hall)

**LITURGICAL MINISTRY SCHEDULES**

	<u>Lector</u>	<u>Extraordinary Ministers</u>	<u>Altar Servers</u>
<b>3/11</b> <b>5:30pm</b>	C. Cataldo	R Williams, J Anderson, P Bailey, S Courson, R & T Fadale D Geiger	A Courson R Courson E Grosch
<b>3/12</b> <b>10:30am</b>	Youth	M & J Roudybush, *A & L Tyers, *A & P Webster, *B Smelko	Youth Youth Youth

In your charity, please pray for the soul of Russell Grosch, father of **Gail and Jennifer Grosch** who passed away recently . We extend our sympathy to his family, and ask God's love and strength to bring them peace and consolation.

**VOCATIONS ICON**

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

*Weekly Donations - February 26: \$ 5,962  
 CSA Pledged: \$125,278; Paid to date: \$ 122,946  
 Thank you for your continued generosity!*

**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. There are numerous grants and scholarships available. Call the school today.

Reminder that Pre-School Roundup is March 10<sup>th</sup>.

SPONSOR OF THE WEEK

**Bridges Adult Day Service**

**905 Fourth Avenue, Warren**

**726-1116 / Rouse.org**

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***Please thank them.***