

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Over the course of almost 25 years of coaching basketball I spent countless hours sitting in gyms scouting teams or watching game films of opposing teams that we may or may not have to face. When I saw a play that a team was running that was particularly difficult to defend, I would appropriate the play for our offensive arsenal. Since I no longer coach, I use the method of appropriation for valuable insights that I may reflect on personally or share with others if the situation warrants.

Last Sunday I spent time with the confirmation class as they were discussing the problem of suffering in the world. You know the question that if God is good, how can God allow someone to suffer. Difficult question to answer if there is even an answer to the question. However, the problem of suffering and its close relative, the question of why God gave us free will were there to be discussed.

The question of free will and decisions we make using free will are easy enough to discuss. In order to love, we must be free to do so. We cannot be coerced into loving anyone. For us to relate to God, we must do so in a loving relationship. Hence we can at least see the need for free will.

The question of suffering is more difficult to talk about. Much suffering in the world is a result of poor decisions, either individually or collectively. Therefore, in some sense, suffering is the consequence of our decisions.

This is where one of my appropriated insights helps us out. *God is a redeeming God, not a rescuing God.* We shouldn't expect God to come riding a white horse to rescue us from the consequences of decisions we have made. Rather we should trust that God can redeem the suffering consequences in the same way that God has done so throughout the Bible. The cross is the easiest example to think about. God didn't rescue Jesus from the suffering of the cross, but redeemed the suffering in the resurrection.

Fr. Rick

PARISH NEWS

FEAST OF SAINT JOSEPH/ SAINT JOSEPH TABLE will be Sunday, March 18th after the 10:30am Mass with a tureen luncheon. Meat, beverages and table service will be provided. Each family is asked to bring a dish to share, to insure a variety of dishes we are asking families whose last name begins with A-H bring Casseroles, I-P bring Desserts, and Q-Z bring Salads. Donations of non-perishable food items will also be collected for our Soup Kitchen Ministry. For reservations, please sign up at the doors of the Church or call the Parish Office @ 723-2090.

RCIA SERVICE PROJECT: A basket raffle to benefit Caring For Life will be conducted by this year's RCIA class. CFL provides financial, emotional and travel expenses to Warren County families with seriously ill children. Tickets will be on sale after the weekend Masses of March 10/11 and 17/18 and during the week in the parish office. \$2 per ticket, 3 for \$5. Baskets include a children's Easter basket and a lottery ticket basket. The winning ticket will be drawn March 21. Thank you for the support of our RCIA class and Caring for Life.

CATHOLIC SERVICE APPEAL 2018

This year's theme is **United in Service**. The projects for this year include: replace the air conditioning unit for the east side of the church, replace carpeting and pew upholstery in the church, and to repair the fair booth. Pledge envelopes can be dropped off at the parish office or placed in the collection basket. Thank you for your consideration and thank you to all of those who have already made a pledge. We are grateful for your support!

HIGH SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS are available in the Parish Office for graduating seniors from our Parish planning to attend a college or a trade school in the fall. Applications will be reviewed and scholarships offered to those students who have exemplified commitment and service in their faith life at St. Joseph Parish. Applications must be returned to the Parish Office by Wednesday, April 25, 2018. No applications will be accepted after this date.

FUNERAL LUNCHEONS

Our funeral luncheon volunteers provide a welcoming place and a warm meal for families grieving the loss of a loved one. Whether your talents are baking a cake, setting an inviting table or preparing a delicious meal, please consider being part of this special ministry. All are welcome. Call the parish office for details or to sign up.

CCY LIVING STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Any middle school and high school students interested in participating in the living stations can still sign up. Practices are Sundays 11:45am at Holy Redeemer and TBD during the week. Living stations are a powerful part of our Lenten experience and gift to our community. Contact Anna Anderson at annamarini02@gmail.com or the parish office for information.

JUST A HELPFUL REMINDER: It would be helpful and save our dedicated volunteers who count our collection each week if everyone would write their amount enclosed on the front of their offertory envelope. Thank you for all your generosity and cooperation.

CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES RICE BOWL

WANT TO CHANGE A LIFE THIS LENT? It is not too late! Rice Bowls are available at the doors of the Church and in the Office. **\$1.00 a day for 40 days of Lent helps provide 1 Month of food for a family, 2 Years of seed for a farmer, 1 Emergency Kit for refugees. Also 25% of your CRS Rice Bowl donation helps alleviate hunger and poverty in our diocese.** To learn more, visit crsricebowl.org.

THANK YOU for changing lives this Lent!

SAINT JOSEPH CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Catholic school students learn that excellence is a response to God's blessings. If you or someone you know wants to attend St. Joseph Catholic School, please call the school at 814-723-2030.
We have open enrollment.

SPONSOR OF THE WEEK

Bridges Adult Day Service

726-1116/Rouse.org

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

Sunday, 3/4	Third Sunday of Lent
8:00am	Mass @ St Luke Church Paul Leofsky by Collins Family
10:30am	For the Living & Deceased Members of St. Joseph Church
Monday, 3/5	Lenten Weekday
12:00pm	Mass @ St. Luke Church
Tuesday, 3/6	Lenten Weekday
12:05pm	Jack & Mary Fill by Doris & Howard Labowski
Wednesday, 3/7	Lenten Weekday (School Mass) St Perpetua & Felicity
9:05am	Chuck Still by Carol & Family
2:00pm	Mass @ the Rouse Home
Thursday, 3/8	Lenten Weekday St John of God, Religious
12:05pm	Paul Leofsky by Beverly Gidos
Friday, 3/9	Lenten Weekday St Frances of Rome, Religious
8:00am	Julia Ziki by Mike & Lisa Lewis
Saturday, 3/10	Third Sunday of Lent (Vigil Mass)
5:30pm	Peggy Hetrick by June Fleeger
Sunday, 3/11	Fourth Sunday of Lent
8:00am	Mass @ St Luke Church
10:30am	In honor of Carolyn Graziano by Tom & Dorothy Corey

LITURGICAL MINISTRY SCHEDULES

	<u>Lector</u>	<u>Extraordinary Ministers</u>	<u>Altar Servers</u>
3/10		C & K Darling, T & R Fadale,	H Harrison
5:30pm	M Sandberg	J Anderson, P Lobdell, J Caumban-Lim	M Harrison L Harrison
3/11		C Zawacki, J & C Kostrzewski,	M Shene
10:30am	P Nasman	C Feaster, B Harvey, P & R Osche	P Shene T Bablak

WEEKLY SANCTUARY CANDLES IN MEMORY of
George & Josephine Yarzabek by Daughter

VOCATIONS ICON

We would like to thank **The Courson Family** for taking the Vocations Icon this week and praying for an increase in vocations here at St. Joseph Parish.

St. Joseph Church

Weekly Offering—March 4th—\$6812.84

Thank you for your continued generosity!

St John's Church will be selling Pierogi's during Lent again this year. They will be making Potato & Cheese and Potato & Sauerkraut pierogi. Cost is \$10.00 per doz or \$6.00 per half doz. Call Fran O'Hosky at 484-7157 to pre-order.

HELPING HANDS MINISTRY ITEMS NEEDED IN MARCH

THE MONTH OF MARCH WE WILL BE COLLECTING BOXES OF CEREAL such as Cheerios, Frosted Flakes, Cornflakes, Raisin Bran. Thank you for your generosity in supporting the needy families of the Warren community through the Helping Hands Ministry. ****We have a special need for dressers and single bed frames . Please call the Parish Office 723-2090.**

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday	2 Kings 5:1-15b; Gospel Luke 4:24-30
Tuesday	Daniel 3:25, 34-43; Gospel Mathew 18:21-35
Wednesday	Deuteronomy 4:1, 5-9; Gospel Matthew 5:17-19
Thursday	Jeremiah 7:23-28; Gospel Luke 11:14-23
Friday	Hosea 14:2-10; Gospel Matt 12:28-34
Saturday	Hosea 6:1-6; Gospel Luke 18:9-14
Sunday	2 Chr 36:14-16, 19-23; Eph 2:4-10; Gospel John 3:14-21

THIS WEEK'S SPECIAL EVENTS

Sunday, March 4	First Scrutiny
8:00am	Mass @ St Luke Church
9:15am	Faith Formation K-9
	Confirmation 10 & 11 In Service for All
10:30am	Mass
	Liturgy of the Word for Children
Monday, March 5	
12:00pm	Mass @ St Luke Church
5:00pm	RCIA Team Meeting (Meyer Hall)
6:30pm	Liturgy Com Meeting (Boardroom)
Tuesday, March 6	
12:05pm	Mass
12:45pm	Stations of the Cross
4:30pm	Soup Kitchen
6:00pm	Pastoral Council Meeting (Boardroom)
7:00pm	Holden Evening Prayer @ 1st Presbyterian—Pastor Rebecca Taylor
Wednesday, March 7	
9:05am	School Mass
10:30am	Faith Share (Meyer Hall)
2:00pm	Mass at the Rouse Home
6:30pm	RCIA Meeting (Meyer Hall)
7:00pm	Choir Practice
Thursday, March 8	
10:15am	Mary Queen of Heaven Lenten Study (Meyer Hall)
12:05pm	Mass
12:30pm	Adoration (Mothers Chapel)
6:00pm	Daisy/Brownie Meeting (Meyer Hall)
6:30pm	Mary Queen of Heaven Lenten Study (Boardroom)
7:15pm	Evening Prayer
Friday, March 9	24 Hours for the Lord St. Peter Cathedral in Erie
8:00am	Mass
5:00pm	K of C Lenten Fish Fry—St. Paul Center, Saybrook
6:30pm	Stations of the Cross @ St. Joseph Church
7:00pm	Stations of the Cross @ St. Luke Church
Saturday, March 10	24 Hours for the Lord St. Peter Cathedral in Erie
3:30pm to 4:15pm	Reconciliation @ Holy Redeemer
	No Reconciliation @ St. Joseph Church
4:30pm	Mass at Holy Redeemer Church with Fr. Rick
5:30pm	Mass at St. Joseph Church with Fr. Rick
Sunday, March 11	Second Scrutiny
8:00am	Mass @ St Luke Church
9:00am	2nd Gr Retreat
9:15am	Faith Formation K-9
10:30am	Mass
	Liturgy of the Word for Children
11:30am	Cherub Choir Rehearsal
7:00pm	CCY High School