

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

To what end? Isn't that just another way to ask the question "why?" Perhaps. However, "to what end" focuses more on the overall purpose than on the phrase that begins "because...". So to what end were we created? Simple. To be loved by God and to freely love God in return.

In the story of creation in the Book of Genesis, we were created in the image and likeness of God. Theologians and Scripture Scholars make the point that in part this means that we have free will—the ability to choose. This ability to choose freely is what gives us the capacity to love.

Then we might ask, "why did God seek to limit that free will by giving us the Ten Commandments?" The answer to that question is simply that the Ten Commandments aren't meant to be restrictive, but rather they are meant as a guideline or blueprint to best enjoy the gift of life God has bestowed on us. In other words, to best way to experience the love God has for us and to freely love God and our neighbor in return.

The problem in the Gospels that the Pharisees and scribes is that they tend to make the "Law" into the purpose of life. When a basketball player is young, he/she tends to want to run the play and concentrates on the proper execution of the play, rather than on the goal of all plays...to score. That analogy helps to explain Jesus' quarrel with the Pharisees and the scribes. They are concentrating on the proper execution of the Law rather than on living the gift of life God has bestowed on us...being loved by God and loving God freely in return.

Sometimes we fall into that same mindset. We concentrate on the proper execution, or the means, rather than on the end. The end will always be the love of God for us and our freely given love of God in return.

Fr. Rick

PARISH NEWS

40 CANS FOR 40 DAYS OF LENT There is a basket by the parish office for you to put one can of a nonperishable food item 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."* Thank you for all the donations so far.

PIEROGI SALE St. John Church in Tidioute will be selling frozen pierogi as a fundraiser during Lent this year. Call Fran O'Hosky 484-7157 to pre-order. Cost is \$9 /dozen or \$6/half dozen.

CATHOLIC SERVICES APPEAL (CSA) 2017 The Catholic Service Appeal is the annual appeal for spiritual and financial support of our Erie Diocesan Church. Our Parish assessment owed the diocese for these programs is \$68,188. Remember that any money raised beyond the diocesan assessment remains in the parish. Thank you to everyone who made a pledge thus far and we are grateful for your support. Envelopes are in the pews and can be placed in the collection basket or dropped off at the parish office during the next few weeks.

THE MASS BOOK IS OPEN to request intentions for weekend and weekday Masses through the end of the year. **We still have some dates open in April and May during the Easter season.** The Sanctuary Candles are also available. Please call or stop by the parish office.

HIGH SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS are available in the parish office for graduating seniors from our parish planning to attend a college or 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 here at St. Joseph Parish. **Applications must be returned to the parish office by Tuesday, April 25th.** No applications will be accepted after this date.

SACRISTANS NEEDED to help set up and clean up after the 10:30am Mass on Sundays. We welcome individuals or couples. Please pray and discern if this ministry make be for you then call Chris Grana at 723-7764 if interested.

THE DIVINE MERCY ENCOUNTER RETREAT will be held the weekend of April 7, 8, & 9 at Saint Joseph Church in Erie. Anyone 16 years or older is welcome to apply. The cost is \$45 and sponsorships are available. Go to www.divinemercyencounter.com for information or to apply.

RCIA THE THIRD SCRUTINY This Sunday the Elect and Candidates will celebrate the third and final Scrutiny during 10:30 Liturgy. The Gospel passage from John is the raising of Lazarus from the dead. We focus on Christ our life, and share in the triumph of his resurrection. We celebrate the Scutinies with our Elect and Candidates reminding us all of the recommitment to die to sin and live for God.

SEEKING GOD? RCIA INQUIRY MEETING, Tuesday April 4th at 6:30pm in Meyer Hall. Do you have a neighbor or friend who does not belong to a church? Invite them to come and see. **All are welcome.**

ST. MARK SEMINARY AUXILIARY GRAND RAFFLE TICKETS will be on sell after masses and in the parish office the weeks of April 1st & 2nd and 8th & 9th. This is their only major fundraiser and the drawing will be held at their Annual Card Party on April 20th, in Erie. This is a great way for our St. Joseph Parish to support the twelve seminarians studying in our diocese.

CAN YOU HELP PARISHIONERS COME TO MASS? We are in need of volunteers to bring parishioners to Mass who are no longer able get to the church on their own. If you are willing to help with this ministry please call Betsy Williams at 723-2090.



UPDATE: The air conditioner was received, that was requested last week, thanks for your continued support. We will be collecting spaghetti sauce for the month of April. Toilet paper and paper towels are always desperately needed. Thank You

LIVING STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Living Stations will be presented by CCY at Holy Redeemer Church on Friday, April 7th at 7:00pm. **Grilled Cheese sandwiches & Tomato Soup available for a donation from 5-6:45pm.** **Gluten Free option available too.** **BRING YOUR CHILDREN. THEY WILL LOVE IT!**

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Sunday, 4/2 - Fifth Sunday of Lent
 8:45am Mass at St. Luke in Youngsville
 10:30am James Graziano by Tom & Betty Juliano

Monday, 4/3 - Lenten Weekday
 12:00pm Mass at St. Luke in Youngsville

Tuesday, 4/4 - Lenten Weekday
 12:05pm Elizabeth Rickert by Mom

Wednesday, 4/5- Lenten Weekday –School Mass
 9:05am Rose Falvo by Family
 2:00pm Mass at the Rouse Home Helen Lucia by Daughter

Thursday, 4/6 - Lenten Weekday
 12:05pm Walt & Lovena Simpson by Walt & Ann Simpson

Friday, 4/7 - Lenten Weekday
 8:00am Florence Scalise by Deacon Joe Lucia

Saturday, 4/8 - Lenten Weekday
 8:00am Shirley Rizzardi by Fran Durante, Vicki & Brian Duckert
 5:30pm Robert Lasecki by Family

Sunday, 4/9—Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord
 8:45am Mass at St. Luke in Youngsville
 10:30am Frank Chiodo by Sally Morrison

Monday Daniel 13:1-9,15-17,19-30,33-62; Gospel - John 8:1-11

Tuesday Numbers 21:4-9; Gospel - John 8:21-30

Wednesday Daniel 3:14-20,91-92,95; Gospel - John 8:31-42

Thursday Genesis 17:3-9, 16-20; Gospel - John 8:51-59

Friday Jeremiah 20:10-13; Gospel - John 10:31-42

Saturday Ezekiel 37:21-28; Gospel - John 11:45-56

Sunday Matthew 21: 1-11, Isaiah 50:4-7, Philippians 2:6-11; Gospel— Matthew 26:14—27:66

WEEKLY SANCTUARY CANDLES in Memory of
 Jeanette Anderson by Mr & Mrs Richard H Wilson

COMING EVENTS

Sunday, April 2
 9:00am K-9 Faith Formation (School)
 3:00pm Gospel of John (Meyer Hall)
 6:00pm Movie Night CCY MS & HS (Youth Room)

Monday, April 3
 4:30pm RCIA Team Meeting (Meyer Hall)

Tuesday, April 4
 12:45pm School Stations of the Cross (Church)
 4:30pm Soup Kitchen (Cafeteria)
 6:30pm RCIA Inquiry Meeting (Meyer Hall)
 7:00pm Holden Evening Prayer @ First Presbyterian

Wednesday, April 5
 9:05am School Mass (Church)
 10:30am Faith Share (Meyer Hall)
 2:00pm Mass at the Rouse Home
 6:30pm Rummage Sale Meeting (Boardroom)
 6:30pm RCIA (Meyer Hall)
 7:00pm Choir (Church)

Thursday, April 6
 8:00am Adoration (Mother’s Chapel)
 6:00pm Daisy Scouts (Meyer Hall)
 7:00pm Prayer Shawl (Meyer Hall)
 7:00pm Confirmation at Holy Redeemer
 8:15pm Night Prayer & Benediction (Mother’s Chapel)

Friday, April 7
 11:00am Decorate for Palm Sunday
 5:00pm K of C Fish Fry in Sheffield (St. Paul Center)
 7:00pm Living Stations of the Cross at Holy Redeemer

Saturday, April 8
 4:30pm Reconciliation (Church)

Sunday, April 9
 10:30am Palm Sunday Opening Prayer and Procession from General Joseph Warren Park

LITURGICAL MINISTRY SCHEDULES

	<u>Lector</u>	<u>Extraordinary Ministers</u>	<u>Altar Servers</u>
4/8 5:30pm	M Sandberg R Williams	B Williams, J Anderson, P Bailey, J Caumban-Lim, R & T Fadale, D Geiger	B Hoffman S Holmberg S Walker
4/9 10:30am	W & P Morgan	V Amsdell, G & M Belleau, N Berardi, C Bevacqua, R Beyer, D Bogniak	B Sowa B Sowa M Sowa

In your charity please pray for the soul of Jane Hultquist, aunt of **Ann Hultquist** who passed away recently. We extend our sympathy to the family, and ask God’s love and strength to bring them peace and consolation.

Vic’s Chicks scheduled for April 23rd has been postponed and will be rescheduled at a later date.
Thank You

RUMMAGE SALE MEETING will be held on Wednesday, April 5th at 6:30pm in the boardroom. The rummage sale is schedule for the week of June 12th. All are welcome to attend. Please call Vilma Siliano with questions at 726-1638

VOCATIONS ICON

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

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.

Weekly Donations - March 26th: \$ 7698.75
 Thank you for your continued generosity!

SPONSOR OF THE WEEK

KeyBank 814-723-5300

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