

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

There is a scene from the movie "The Shack" where the central figure Mackenzie wants to leave. God indicates that he is free to go because God is not into prisoners. The scene is relatively brief and in the end Mackenzie decides to stay. While the book and movie aren't inspired, they are inspiring. The scene is reminiscent of the story in the Gospel of St Matthew of the rich young man who approaches Jesus wanting to know what he must do to gain eternal life. In the end Jesus tells him to go and sell everything and come follow him. The young man leaves, saddened because he had so many things. Jesus makes no effort to stop the young man. A person must follow Jesus freely.

We don't know whether the young man ever returned to follow Jesus. Sacred Scripture doesn't even give us a hint. But the fact that Jesus didn't try to argue with the young man, try to guilt him in any way, twist his arm, or use fear tactics speaks volumes. Jesus invites and waits for to freely respond to invitation regardless of how long that may take. Jesus is patient beyond belief.

During my interviews with the confirmation candidates I tried to explain to them that the letter they write to the Bishop requesting confirmation is an expression of their free decision to ask for the sacrament. In other words the Lord invites the candidate to the sacred encounter in the sacrament and the candidate responds freely to the invitation.

That same process is part of the sacrament of Matrimony. People must freely respond to the invitation of the Lord. A sacrament doesn't occur in a "shotgun wedding" because one of the parties is being forced into the rite.

God created us with free will which is the faculty that allows us to love. God desires that we freely choose to love God without any outside pressure or manipulation.

Make the choice Mackenzie made and freely choose to stay with God.

Fr. Rick

PARISH NEWS

40 CANS FOR 40 DAYS OF LENT This will be the final week to bring in your cans of non perishable food for the 40 days of Lent food drive. We have collected 296 lbs of cans so far and we thank you for your generosity. All donated foods will be used at the Youngsville Food Pantry.

CATHOLIC SERVICES APPEAL (CSA) 2017 We have reached our parish diocesan assessment. Remember that all money pledged beyond the diocesan assessment remains in the parish. If you have not made your pledge yet envelopes for your financial and/or spiritual support can be found at the doors of the church or at the parish office. Thank you for your support of this important appeal.

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 may be for you then call Chris Grana at 723-7764 if interested.

ST. MARK SEMINARY AUXILIARY GRAND RAFFLE TICKETS will be on sell after Masses this weekend. 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. office .

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY is April 23rd. Benediction and the Divine Mercy Chaplet will be celebrated at Holy Redeemer Church after 8:30am Mass. The Divine Mercy Chaplet will be sung in the afternoon at 3:00pm at St. Joseph Church.

COMMUNITY GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE sponsored by the Warren Ministerial Association will be **April 14, at 7:30pm at the First United Methodist Church.** Join us as we reflect upon the suffering and sacrifice of our Saviour. The service will include Scripture readings by local clergy, a joint choir, congregational singing, and special music.

Save the Date

**A Free Estate Planning Seminar will be held at
St Joseph Church on May 10th
Stay tuned for further details in our bulletin**



We will be collecting spaghetti sauce for the month of April. Toilet paper and paper towels are always desperately needed. Thank You to all who have donated variety of needed furniture items and bedding or have made monetary donations over the past few months to our Helping Hands ministry. **Your generosity is overwhelming.** Please continue to check the bulletin board for new items needed

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.

SPONSOR OF THE WEEK

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Please thank them.

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

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, 4/10 - Monday of Holy Week
 12:00pm Mass at St. Luke in Youngsville

Tuesday, 4/11 - Tuesday of Holy Week
 12:05pm Lorraine Bengston by Family

Wednesday, 4/12– Wednesday of Holy Week
 9:05am Anthony DeSalvo by Don & Nancy Sobina

Thursday, 4/13 - Holy Thursday
 8:00am Morning Prayer
 7:00pm Kathleen Shea by Family

Friday, 4/14 - Good Friday The Passion of the Lord
 8:00am Morning Prayer
 1:30pm Good Friday Celebration of the Lord’s Passion

Saturday, 4/15 - Holy Saturday
 8:00am Morning Prayer
 9:00pm Living & Deceased Parishioners of Saint Joseph

Sunday, 4/16—Easter Sunday The Resurrection of the Lord
 8:45am Mass at St. Luke in Youngsville
 10:30am Living & Deceased Members of Fritz & Wortman Families by Ann & Jerry Wortman

Monday Isaiah 42:1-7; Gospel - John 12:1-11

Tuesday Isaiah 49:1-6; Gospel - John 13:21-33,36-38

Wednesday Isaiah 50:4-9a; Gospel - Matthew 26:14-25

Thursday Exodus 12:1-8, 11-14; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26, Gospel John 13:1-15

Friday Isaiah 52:13-53:12, Hebrews 4:14-16, 5:7-9, Gospel John 18:1-19:42

Saturday Gn22:1-2:2, Gn22:1-18, EX 14:15-15:1/Is54:5-14/ Is55:1-11,Bar 3:9-15,32-4:4/Ez 36:16-17a, 18-28, Rom 6:3-11, Gospel Matthew 28:1-10

Sunday Acts 10:34a,37-43, Colossians 3:1-4, Gospel John 20:1-9

COMING EVENTS

Sunday, April 9
No Faith Formation
 10:30am Blessing of Palms and Procession at General Joseph Warren Park
 3:00pm Gospel of John (Meyer Hall)

Monday, April 10
No School—All Week
 5:00pm Care & Concern Meeting (Boardroom)

Tuesday, April 11
 4:30pm Soup Kitchen (Cafeteria)

Wednesday, April 12
 9:05am Mass (Mothers Chapel)
 6:30pm RCIA Seder Meal (Meyer Hall)

Thursday, April 13
Parish Office Closed

Friday, April 14
Parish Office Closed
 5:00pm K of C Fish Fry in Sheffield (St. Paul Center)
 7:30pm Community Good Friday Service (First United Methodist Church)

Saturday, April 15
 8:00am RCIA Retreat
 12:00pm Blessing of Easter Foods (Mothers Chapel)

LITURGICAL MINISTRY SCHEDULES

	<u>Lector</u>	<u>Extraordinary Ministers</u>	<u>Altar Servers</u>
4/13 7:00pm	M Sandberg	B Williams, A Kiehl, H Zaffino, R Kujawa, R & P Osche	I Wortman A Courson, O Strandburg A Strandburg
4/14 1:30pm	D Pusateri D Wortman	A Kiehl, P Christy	C Shene G Wortman R Courson
4/15. 9:00pm	All Parishes	K & V Amsdell, J Anderson	4 Volunteers needed
4/16 10:30am	P Nasman	C Feaster, P Christy, T Grana, D Labowski , 3 Volunteers needed	B Hoffman L Johnson S Johnson M Sowa

HOLY WEEK WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Holy Thursday, April 13
 8:00am Morning Prayer (Mothers Chapel)
 7:00pm Evening Mass of the Lord’s Supper
Childcare available from 6:45-9:00pm (Meyer Hall)

Good Friday, April 14th
 8:00am Morning Prayer
 12:00-1:00pm Confessions
 1:30pm Celebration of the Lord’s Passion
Childcare available noon-3:00pm (Meyer Hall)

Holy Saturday, April 15th
 8:00am Morning Prayer
 9:00pm Great Easter Vigil

Easter Sunday, April 16th
 8:30am Mass @ Holy Redeemer Church
 8:45am Mass @ St Luke’s Church
 10:30am Mass @ St Joseph Church
 11:00am Mass @ St. Anthony’s Church

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

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

In your charity please pray for the soul of **Mary Ann Sperry**, sister of **Theresa Massa** who passed away this week and for Ian Williams grandson of **Nancy & Gerald Berardi** .who passed away recently. We extend our sympathy to the families, and ask God’s love and strength to bring them peace and consolation.

Weekly Donations - April 2nd \$6510.00
 Thank you for your continued generosity!