

## FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

To my family of St. Joseph,

On behalf of our entire parish family I congratulate the youth of our church who have received their First Eucharist this weekend! Know that your pastor is proud of your enthusiasm and faith. Our whole spiritual family will continue to pray for your growth in that faith in which you have been incredibly nourished this weekend. This is an important and incredible step for you as you receive the Bread of Life, the Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of our Lord Jesus Christ for the first time.

Congratulations also to the parents of our First Communicants! Thank you for fulfilling your promises of your wedding and your child's baptism, when you committed to raising your children in the practice of the faith. Recall at the baptism ceremony, that the final prayers and blessing are said in front of the altar as a reminder that the Christian/Catholic life that is born in Baptism, can only develop and flourish when being nourished by Jesus in the Eucharist. Jesus himself told us (in John 6) that if we do not eat the Bread of Life we cannot have life within us and that He cannot remain with us. So parents, your commitment is not over. You must continue to ensure that your children do not spiritually starve by not going to Mass. Just bringing your children to Religious Education is NOT ENOUGH and is not fulfilling your duties as Catholic parents. Know that I pray for you in fulfilling this daunting, but incredibly life-giving responsibility.

As for the rest of us who have been receiving Holy Communion for years, let us allow our children to inspire us to re-appreciate the "Sacrament of Sacraments" in our lives as well. First Eucharist is always a good time to review the rubrics on how to receive Communion which all reinforce the Real Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist and therefore the special care and reverence we should display when doing so. Please see the Liturgy section elsewhere in bulletin to review those rubrics and recommit to following them with renewed faith and reverence.

May God bless our First Communicants and the rest of our Easter Season!

Yours in Christ,

**Fr. Rich**

Our Lady of Perpetual Help ...pray for us!  
St. Joseph.... pray for us!

### Notes from the pastor...

\*\*As many of you are aware, **Dr. Howard Ferguson will be retiring in June.** Please join us at the 10:30am Mass on Sunday, May 15<sup>th</sup> as we celebrate his retirement and bid him farewell. Dr. Ferguson has been a true blessing to our school community and we will miss him. A reception will follow in the gym. All are invited to join us for cake and punch.

\*\***Diocesan Parish Restructuring Preliminary Plan** I strongly encourage you to go to the Erie Diocesan Website at <http://www.eriecd.org/planning.asp> to read the entire plan and the reasoning behind it. I quote from that article- "The best pastoral and spiritual care of souls" was cited several times as the driving force behind pastoral planning, when the changes were announced. To that end, among the main goals of both merging and partnering parishes are: —creating vibrant parishes with enhanced opportunities for worship; —pooling resources for more effective evangelization and outreach; —ensuring optimum utilization of clergy; —creating efficiencies in operation. The following recommendations were made for the parishes of Warren, Youngsville and Sheffield: **St. Joseph Parish, Warren and St. Luke Parish, Youngsville, will be merged into St. Joseph Parish, Warren. Parish church: St. Joseph with the secondary mission church: St. Luke.** Holy Redeemer Parish, Warren and St. Anthony of Padua Parish, Sheffield, will merge into Holy Redeemer Parish, Warren. Parish church: Holy Redeemer with secondary mission church: St. Anthony. What would this new parish of St. Joseph look like if this recommendation is accepted? St. Joseph would include parishioners from Youngsville and Warren who were previously a part of St. Joseph and St. Luke. There would be one Pastor, one staff, one pastoral council, and one finance council comprised of members from the previous parishes of St. Joseph and St. Luke. **The finances of both previous parishes would be combined.** Both physical churches of St. Joseph and St. Luke would remain open with St. Joseph being the primary parish church. St. Luke would be open for funerals, weddings, one Mass on the weekend and possibly one Mass during the week. Most likely this would require St. Joseph to have one less weekend Mass.

\*\***Parish Town Hall Meeting for Feedback on Restructuring Proposal** This **Tuesday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> at 6:30pm in the Educational Center Gym** there will be a Town Hall meeting to discuss the Diocesan Preliminary Plan for restructuring our parish explained previously. Recall that this would most likely lead to the number of Masses at St. Joseph to be reduced to two since St. Luke would still have one weekend Mass as a mission church. For a more details please see above. The Town Hall Meeting will help our parish leaders to complete our **INSTITUTIONAL RESPONSE** to the Diocese. This will hold more weight than personal responses in the feedback process so it is important to attend this meeting in addition to sending in your personal feedback (see below for the process).

\*\***Personal Feedback on Restructuring Proposal** See above for the plan for institutional feedback but you can also give **PERSONAL FEEDBACK** directly to the Diocese. Forms are available on the website. You can also fill out a hardcopy of the feedback form which can be found out the doors of the church and drop them off at the office (and we will send them to the Diocese). **The deadline for feedback is May 20<sup>th</sup>.** Please continue to prayer our Diocesan Pastoral Planning Prayer and ask the Holy Spirit to guide this process of feedback. I hope and pray that we can all be open to God's desire to renew our parish, deanery, vicariate and diocese... come Holy Spirit!

\*\***West Fest: A Fun Day for Body, Mind and Soul** This **Saturday, May 7<sup>th</sup> from 11am-4pm on the grounds of three West End Churches (St. Joseph, Trinity Episcopal, Warren Wesleyan-Salvation Army had to withdraw due to unforeseen circumstances) will be a new initiative called West Fest.** Recall that this new event is a result of recent collaboration with the other West End Churches. It is a one-day event organized as a "blessing" to the Warren Community. Each campus will focus on aspects of spiritual, physical, mental and emotional "wellness" while also providing FREE food and offering various forms of entertainment and children's activities. St. Joseph will focus on mental health and well-being. This event fits well into our Catholic Jubilee Year of Mercy in it's ecumenical spirit as well as it's goal of helping our community connect with the services that desire to mercifully help them. See the insert for details on activities and schedule.

\*\***West Fest Prayer Team** One goal of this "West Fest" is to reinforce the fact that spiritual health affects all other aspects of our mental, physical and psychological well-being. With that goal in mind, each church participating will have prayer teams in their respective churches available throughout the day to pray with people who seek spiritual strength and healing. We need parishioners from St. Joseph to be a part of this team so please consider covering an hour or two that Saturday, May 7<sup>th</sup> from 11am-4pm. There will be an **orientation meeting for all those participating in this on Monday, May 2<sup>nd</sup> at 7:30pm at Trinity Episcopal.** Call the parish office if you are willing to be a part of this important aspect of West Fest.

\*\***Corpus Christi Celebration** As another way to intensify our celebration of the Jubilee of Mercy, we are expanding our celebration of the Feast of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ (Corpus Christi) on Sunday, May 29<sup>th</sup>. At the end of the 10:30am Mass we will have a more traditional Eucharistic Procession around the entire block of our church (Pennsylvania, Laurel, 4<sup>th</sup> and Hazel streets). Recall last year that we had a procession along the sidewalk of our parking lot and back through the church. As part of the tradition, the procession will stop at three altars located in yards along the block where extra prayers are said. The procession will then end back in the church where we will have benediction. Then everyone is invited to the gym for a potluck lunch where the parish will provide a meat and beverages. Fr. Ross Chamberland O.F.M. from St. Bonaventure University will preach the homily at the 10:30am Mass and then will give a 20-30 minute talk at the end of lunch. Children will be taken to Meyer Hall for activities during the talk. The whole event should be done by 2pm. Call the parish office to make a reservation for lunch.

\*\***Church Renovations Committee Meeting** With the encouragement of our Liturgy and Buildings and Grounds Committees, our parish will begin to look at several significant aspects of our interior church design and consider possible renovations. Specifically we will consider the placement of our choir, the location of the baptismal font, the restoration of the old Stations of the Cross and Mary and Joseph Statues permanent placement in the main church, sound system evaluation and the confessionals. If you are interested in being on the committee who will oversee these considerations, please let me know. **Our first meeting for this group will be this Wednesday, May 4<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm.**

## **PARISH NEWS**

**WEST FEST** We are in need of several "pop-ups" or canopy's for West Fest. If you have some type of roof covering to help shade people from the sun or the rain, depending on the weather, please drop off at the parish office this week. Thank you!

**PASTORAL COUNCIL NOMINATIONS** If you or someone you know would like to part of Pastoral Council, please stop by the parish office for nomination forms. Deadline to nominate yourself or someone else is May 9<sup>th</sup>.

**CHILD PROTECTION AND CREATING SAFE ENVIRONMENTS** Sexual abuse of minors is pervasive societal problem. Only concerted and sustained efforts by all adults in every segment of society can help to protect children and youth. It is every adult's moral responsibility to protect possible victims by reporting suspected abuse or neglect to the responsible authorities at the Pennsylvania Child Abuse Hotline, *Child Line*, 1-800-932-0313. To see what the Diocese of Erie is doing to help create safe environments, check out [www.eriecd.org/protectyouth.htm](http://www.eriecd.org/protectyouth.htm)

**PLAY BALL!** The Warren K of C is sponsoring a bus to Pittsburgh on Tuesday, May 17<sup>th</sup>. The Pittsburgh Pirates are playing the Atlanta Braves. All are invited, you don't have to be a member to come along. Cost of the trip and game ticket is \$68.00. If you are interested in going, call 688-7616 for more information.

**DEACON JAMES POWER ORDINATION** Join us at St. Peter's Cathedral at 7pm in Erie on June 10<sup>th</sup> to celebrate Jamie's ordination to the priesthood. The bus will leave Warren at 3pm. Cost is \$40 which includes your bus seat and dinner. Seating is limited. Call the parish office to reserve your seat today.

**ANNUAL RUMMAGE SALE** Did you start your spring cleaning yet? We would love to have what you don't want anymore! Our Annual St. Joseph School Rummage sale will be held June 16, 17 and 18. We will start accepting your donations June 12. As in years past, we cannot accept old computers/monitors, large exercise equipment or gas powered equipment.

**PILGRIMAGE REVISITED** The group who traveled to the Holy Land has compiled photos and want to share with the greater community. There will be one more session, Wednesday, May 4 at 1:30. The viewing will be held in Meyer Hall. All are invited to attend. Come see photos where Jesus was born, during his public Ministry, his death and resurrection. Included are 19 of the 20 sites of the Mysteries of the Rosary. For questions regarding this presentation, call Barb at 723-6564.

**FORMATION NIGHTS ON MERCY** Our next Formation Night on Mercy will be held on **Sunday, May 22<sup>nd</sup> from 6-8pm**. Our Catechetical Ministries are being targeted to come but ALL parishioners are welcome. These ministries include Salt and Light Catechists, RCIA team, Adult Faith Formation Committee and Youth Ministry (CCY)- I am asking both leadership and volunteers in these ministries to attend. RECALL that if you have already attended a formation night and belong to these ministries, you are asked to come at 7:15pm in order to participate in your ministries discussion group. If you missed the formation night for your ministry in the past, you are asked to attend this session.

### **VOCATIONS ICON**

We would like to thank **Doug & Donna Hoffman** for taking the Vocations Icon this week and praying for an increase in vocations here at St. Joseph.

## **Liturgy Corner**

**Mother's Day Blessing** Next weekend we will honor and offer a special blessing for all mothers at each Mass so make a special effort to bring your mother to Mass. Thank you, Moms, for all you do for us!

**May... Mary's Month** We will honor our Blessed Mother Mary and seek her intercession in several ways this month. Our original Mary Statue from the old St. Joseph Church will be crowned in the church at the First Communion Mass next weekend, and the outdoor Mary Statue will be crowned by the school community on Monday, May 2<sup>nd</sup> at 8:45am. Also, the Rosary will be recited communally every day of May after the earliest Mass of the day. Consider making a personal commitment to honor Mary this month and crown or decorate your Mary statues in your yards and homes.

**\*\*Receiving Communion at Mass** Recall that we are asked to make a simple gesture of reverence as we come before the minister and are presented with the Sacred Host or Precious Blood as a way to honor Jesus' special presence there (a slight bow at the waist is appropriate). When the sacred host or precious blood is offered by the minister, we respond with a heartfelt "Amen." This response means "so be it," "it is true" or "I believe" and is a way of affirming our belief that Jesus is truly, substantially present there in the Eucharist. It is not appropriate to say "I am" or some other option. Yes we are all part of the Body of Christ but at this moment in receiving Holy Communion we are focusing on the real presence in the Eucharist before us. We are affirming our belief in Him, not on the eventual result of Mass, which is that we become more fully the Body of Christ through our participation. Then we are invited to receive the Sacred Host on the tongue or in the hand. Those receiving on the tongue are asked to open their mouths wide and to offer their tongues so that the minister does not need to stick their fingers in the communicant's mouth. Those receiving in the hand consider what St. Cyril of Jerusalem said: "When you approach holy Communion, make the left hand into a throne for the right, which will receive the king." Pope Paul VI added, "Then, with your lower hand, take the consecrated host and place it in your mouth." For those who receive Communion on the hand, please be sure and follow this practice (for those who are left-handed like me, it would be the opposite). Receiving one-handed or cupping your hands side by side or grabbing with our fingers are not the right way to receive and leads to mishandling or flopping the Eucharist around which is not appropriate. After receiving the host, we are expected to place it in our mouths immediately and consume it. It is not acceptable to take the host with you back to your seat or elsewhere. There is not a set rubric for the moment after reception other than you are asked to step off to the side right away if you prefer to make the sign of the cross or any other personal gestures. That allows the procession to continue in a timely fashion.

### **Mercy Meter**



Saint Joseph family, thank you for all the jars/cans of spaghetti sauce that will fill the shelves of the Salvation Army; Bill is so appreciative. This month of May we are collecting **laundry detergent, window cleaner and Clorox wipes**. This week pray a rosary for an expectant mother to say YES to this new life or to choose adoption over abortion.

**MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK**

**READINGS FOR THE WEEK**

**Sunday, 5/1 - Sixth Sunday of Easter**  
 8:00am Edward & Frances Baczkowski by Blair & Pam Smoulder  
 10:30am Living and Deceased Parishioners of Saint Joseph

**Monday, 5/2 - Saint Athanasius, Bishop**  
 8:00am Robert Belleau by Family

**Tuesday, 5/3 - Saints Philip and James, Apostles**  
 12:05pm Connie Gray by Family

**Wednesday, 5/4 - Easter Weekday**  
 9:05am Margaret McBride by Feaster Family

**Thursday, 5/5 - The Ascension of the Lord**  
 12:05pm Mary Murphy by Family  
 5:30pm Deceased Members of the Derr & Williams Families by Family

**Friday, 5/6 - Easter Weekday**  
 8:00am William & Imogene Weidert by Family

**Saturday, 5/7 - Easter Weekday**  
 8:00am Linda Hays by Joanne  
 5:30pm Living & Deceased Parishioners of Saint Joseph

**Sunday, 5/8 - Seventh Sunday of Easter**  
 8:00am Katie Rooney  
 10:30am James & Josephine Puleo by Family

**Monday** Acts 16:11-15; Gospel - John 15:26—16:4a

**Tuesday** 1 Corinthians 15:1-8; Gospel - John 14:6-14

**Wednesday** Acts 17:15, 22—18:1; Gospel - John 16:12-15

**Thursday** Acts 1:1-11; Ephesians 1:17-23 or Hebrews 9:24-28; 10:19-23  
 Gospel - Luke 24:46-53

**Friday** Acts 18:9-18; Gospel - John 16:20-23

**Saturday** Acts 18:23-28; Gospel - John 16:23b-28

**Sunday** Acts 7:55-60; Revelation 22:12-14,16-17, 20;  
 Gospel - John 17:20-26

WEEKLY SANCTUARY CANDLES *in memory of*  
 Dr. Joseph Manno by Family  
 Dick Sowa by Friends

**COMING EVENTS**

**Sunday, May 1**  
 10:30am First Eucharist Mass (Church)  
 Reception to follow (Meyer Hall)  
 6:00pm West Fest Meeting (Meyer Hall)  
 7:00pm MS CCY (Youth Room)

**Monday, May 2**  
 7:30pm West Fest Prayer Team meeting  
 (Trinity Episcopal Church)

**Tuesday, May 3**  
 4:30pm Soup Kitchen (Cafeteria)  
 6:30pm Town Hall Meeting for Diocese Restructuring  
 (Gym)

**Wednesday, May 4**  
 10:30am Faith Share (Meyer Hall)  
 1:00pm Holy Land Pilgrimage Revisited (Meyer Hall)  
 6:30pm Church Renovation Committee Meeting  
 (Meyer Hall)

**Thursday, May 5**  
 12:05pm Holy Day School Mass (Church)  
 12:30pm Adoration (Mother's Chapel)  
 5:15pm Reposition (Mother's Chapel)  
 5:30pm Holy Day Mass (Church)  
 7:00pm Prayer Shawl Ministry (Meyer Hall)

**Friday, May 6**  
 7:30am SJCS Muffins with Mom (Cafeteria)  
 Homebound Communion

**Saturday, May 7**  
 11:00am-4:00pm West Fest (Church Grounds)  
 4:30pm Reconciliation (Church)

**Sunday, May 8**  
**HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY!**  
 3:00pm Warren Philharmonic (Holy Redeemer)

**LITURGICAL MINISTRY SCHEDULES**

	<u>Lector</u>	<u>Extraordinary Ministers</u>	<u>Altar Servers</u>
<b>5/7 5:30pm</b>	J Walker	J Caumban-Lim, C & K Darling, F Perrin, M Sowa, K Jones	S Holmberg I Darling
<b>5/8 8:00am</b>	J Bowler	B Smelko, J & R Cecco, P Christy, B & B Crowley	L Belleau R Cecco
<b>5/8 10:30am</b>	S Lauser	C Bevacqua, D Bogniak, A Wortman, G Grosch, C & J Kostrzewski, C Luppino	H Shattuck L Shattuck R Shattuck



**From the Halls of St. Joseph Catholic School**  
 Pizza Hut and St. Joseph School are collaborating on a Pizza Hut FUNraiser and we want you to join us. The event will be held on Wednesday, May 11<sup>th</sup> from 11:00am to 9:00pm. Full details and vouchers are at the exits of the Church. Come out, eat with family and friends and support our school!  
 Also, the Third Annual May gasoline raffle will be held from May 9<sup>th</sup> through 26<sup>th</sup>. The grand prize is \$200 of Kwik-Fill SCRIP cards. There will also be four prizes of \$50 Kwik-Fill SCRIP cards. Tickets are \$1 each or 6 for \$5. You can purchase them at the school or parish office starting May 9<sup>th</sup>. We are appreciative of United Refining Company for their contributing the prizes.

*Weekly Donations - April 24: \$ 8,937  
 CSA Pledges: 273; Amount Pledged: \$116,601  
 Thank you for your continued generosity!*

SPONSOR OF THE WEEK  
**Huber Blacktop**  
**723-1930**  
 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.**