

**FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK**

While visiting the school children this morning, I mentioned that I was in need of some inspiration for the bulletin column. One youngster suggested I could write about dinosaurs. Another suggested I could write about God. While both suggestions are good, I decided to write about something else because I don't know enough about dinosaurs and what more can be said about God that already hasn't been said.

Spending time with the children is always inspirational. I had the chance today to read a book to kindergarten about a love letter from God. All of us at times need to be reminded of God's unconditional love for us. This children's book in age appropriate words told these kindergarten children that God will always love them even if at times they think themselves unlovable.

God will always take the initiative in loving us. There is nothing we can do to increase the amount of love God has for us... God is already all in. But God will never force us to return that love. A person must freely choose to love or in this case to return love to God. A god that would demand love in return or force a person to love would be a tyrant.

God is always respectful of our free will and loves us first as an invitation to respond in kind. When we respond to God's initiative of love, our relationship with God can grow and deepen. No matter the age, it is always appropriate to be reminded that God loves us.

*Fr. Rick*

**OUR PARISH NEWS**

**PASTORAL COUNCIL NOMINATIONS** Four new members will be needed on our Pastoral Council this coming June. **If you or someone you know would like to be part of Pastoral Council, please stop by the parish office to pick up a nomination form.** All nomination forms are due in the parish office by June 2nd. Selection of the new members will be at 5:30pm Mass on June 4th.

**SAINT JOSEPH PARISH WELCOMES DEACON IAN MCELRATH.** Deacon Ian was ordained to the diaconate by Bishop Persico on April 22nd and he is a native of St. Joseph Church in Sharon, PA. He will be with us for ten weeks this summer before returning to St. Mary's Seminary in Baltimore for his last year of theological studies.

**LITURGY OF THE WORD FOR CHILDREN** We are in need of volunteers for this awesome experience for our 10:30 Mass families. It is a once every six weeks commitment and an experienced minister of the Word for Children will show you what to do. Please call Jennifer TODAY at 688-3842 and sign up for this important ministry in our parish.

**ANNUAL RUMMAGE SALE** It is time to start planning for our Annual St. Joseph Rummage Sale. If you would like to volunteer, the sign up sheets will be at the Scrip Table after Mass and in the Parish Office. We will start accepting donations after Mass on June 10th and 11th. This year the Rummage Sale will be held June 15th, 16th and 17th. As in years past, we can not accept old computers/monitors, large exercise equipment, or gas powered equipment. All proceeds will benefit St. Joseph Catholic School.

**FUNERAL LUNCHEON COMMITTEE** We are looking to expand our funeral luncheon committee, and are seeking to build a pool of volunteers to help serve and prepare a luncheon. What a wonderful way to comfort a grieving family by serving them a meal! For more information or to volunteer call Betsy Williams @723-2090 Ext 12.

**CARE & CONCERN HOME REPAIRS** If you are in need of small repairs in your home. Please call Steve Guadagnino 757-9592

**THE NEXT WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER WEEK-END** will be held June 23rd through 25th in Erie. Early registration is advisable as space is limited. To register visit [www.yourmarriageisworthit.org](http://www.yourmarriageisworthit.org). Why not take this opportunity to enrich your marriage and family life by attending a Marriage Encounter Weekend?

**PENTECOST SUNDAY IS NEXT WEEKEND** Celebrate by wearing red. As in the past we are asking everyone to dig deep into your closets and drawers to find that red shirt or dress to wear to Mass.

**THE 2017 DIOCESAN WEDDING ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION** Liturgies for couples celebrating 25, 50, 60, or more years of marriage in 2017 will be held at two locations: St. Leo Magnus, Ridgway on August 6th at 2:00pm and St. Jude the Apostle, Erie on August 13th at 2:00pm. To register please contact the parish office or visit the diocesan website: [www.erieRCD.org](http://www.erieRCD.org).



We will be collecting **Peanut Butter & Jelly and Apple Juice** during the month of **May**. Toilet paper and paper towels are always desperately needed. **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  
**Nancy J. Shattuck**  
**Real Estate & Associates, LLC**  
**723-4663**  
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.*

**MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK**

**READINGS FOR THE WEEK**

**Sunday, 5/28— Seventh Sunday of Easter**  
 8:45am Mass at St. Luke in Youngsville  
 10:30am Marry & Gay by Walt & Ann Simpson

**Monday, 5/29— Easter Weekday Memorial Day**  
 9:00am Mass @ St. Joseph Cemetery

**Tuesday, 5/30 - Easter Weekday**  
 12:05pm Leonard Glossinger by Joanne

**Wednesday, 5/31— The Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary (School Mass)**  
 9:05am Jeannine Loranger by The Belleau Family

**Thursday, 6/1 - Saint Justin, Martyr**  
 12:05pm Special Intentions by Rose

**Friday, 6/2—Saint Marcellinus and Peter, Martyrs**  
 8:00am Karlene Molinaro by Bill & Beverly Long

**Saturday, 6/3— First Saturday St Charles Lwanga & Companions**  
 5:30pm Walter Shanshala by Madeline, Elizabeth & Michael

**Sunday, 6/4— Pentecost Sunday**  
 8:45am Mass at St. Luke in Youngsville  
 10:30am Living & Deceased Parishioners of St Joseph Church

**Monday** Acts 19:1-8; Gospel John 16:29-33

**Tuesday** Acts 20:17-27; Gospel John 17:1-11a

**Wednesday** Zephaniah 3:14-18a; Gospel Luke 1:39-56

**Thursday** Acts 22:30;23:6-11; Gospel John 17:20-26

**Friday** Acts 25:13b-21; Gospel John 21:15-19

**Saturday** Acts 28:16-20,30-31; John 21:20-25

**Sunday** Acts 12:1-11; 1 Corinthians 12:3b-7,12-13; Gospel John 20:19-23

**THIS WEEK'S SPECIAL EVENTS**

**Sunday, May 28**  
 10:30 Children's Liturgy of the Word

**Monday, May 29 Memorial Day**  
**Parish Office Closed**  
**No School**  
 9:00 **Memorial Day Mass @ St. Joseph Cemetery**

**Tuesday, May 30**  
 4:30pm Soup Kitchen (Cafeteria)

**Wednesday, May 31**  
 9:05am **School Mass**  
 3:00pm Brownies (Meyer Hall)

**Thursday, June 1**  
 12:30pm-5:30pm Adoration  
 5:30pm Reposition of the Blessed Sacrament  
 7:00pm Prayer Shawl Ministry (Meyer Hall)

**Friday, June 2 First Friday**  
**All school Trip to Waldameer**

**Saturday, June 3 First Saturday**  
 4:30pm to 5:15pm Reconciliation  
 5:30pm Mass Vigil for Pentecost Sunday  
 Selection of New Pastoral Council Members

**Sunday, June 4 Pentecost Sunday**  
 8:45am Mass @ St. Luke Church  
 10:30am Mass (High School Graduates)  
 Liturgy of the Word for Children

**LITURGICAL MINISTRY SCHEDULES**

	<u>Lector</u>	<u>Extraordinary Ministers</u>	<u>Altar Servers</u>
6/3 5:30pm	M Sandberg	K & C Darling, M Sowa, *K Weigel, A Kiehl, R Sharp, P Tack	B Hoffman S Holmberg S Walker
6/4 10:30am	Seniors	*J & R Cecco, *W Harvey, R Beyer, *C & J Kostrzewski, *P Bailey	L Belleau Rachel Cecco M Wortman

WEEKLY SANCTUARY CANDLES in Memory of  
 Shirley & Louis Rizzardi by Family  
 And  
 Michael Kolos by Karen

Weekly Donations - May 21th -\$5704.84  
 Second Collection May 21th— \$1215.25

**DONATE YOUR SOLES TO THE HOUSE OF HOPE**

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 Help raise funds for the House of Hope by donating your new or used, gently worn shoes, sandals, and boots. A collection container for the shoes is located outside of the parish office.

**VOCATIONS ICON**

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

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**CHANGE FOR LIFE BABY BOTTLES**

Take an empty baby bottle home . Fill it up with spare change. Return it by Father's Day. Handfuls of change add up to many needed items such as cribs, car seats, clothing, diapers, and more for babies in need. All proceeds benefit the Warren County Pregnancy Support Center. Bottles are still available at the side entrances of the Church.

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**CHILD PROTECTION AND CREATING SAFE ENVIRONMENTS**

A child's safety is an **adult's** job. Children are often taught how to keep themselves safe from sexual abuse-and that's important to learn-but that's no substitute for adult responsibility. We make sure our children wear seat belts, we keep poisons out of reach, we teach them to drive safely. When would we leave the job of preventing child sexual abuse solely to children and youth? To see what the Diocese of Erie is doing to help create safe environments, check out <http://www.eriecd.org/protectyouth.htm>