

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

To my family of St. Joseph,

A blessed Feast of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ to you! See elsewhere for more information on this great feast and how we will celebrate it here at St. Joseph. The Procession that we are having is not only a great way to worship our God and celebrate the gift of Himself to us in the Eucharist, it is also a great tool for Evangelization. Effective evangelization and care for souls in our Diocesan Church is the goal for our proposed restructuring plan. After our town hall meeting and the subsequent Pastoral Council meeting, the leadership of our parish wants to recommend something different than what was in the preliminary plan from the diocese. Below is an excerpt from the Institutional feedback form to the Diocese from our Pastoral Council explaining this further. The Diocese has been told that this feedback is tentative since we wanted to meet the May 20th deadline but also wanted to have a chance to inform the rest of the parish and ensure there is overall support for this. The Finance Council has been informed and does not oppose the recommendation.

“Suggestions- The Pastoral Council reconvened after the above feedback was given at our parish Town Hall meeting and further developed our parish view. It was settled that there is significant concern about the amount of pastoral time and energy required in merging St. Luke and St. Joseph that would potentially lead to a neglect of St. Joseph Catholic School (which has made substantial strides the past six years and does not want to be lost) and parish..... St. Luke’s ministry includes responsibility for the Rouse Home (which includes 3 units- one nursing home, one independent living and one apartment complex). With these concerns, the leadership of St. Joseph SUGGEST THAT ST. JOSEPH PARISH BE MERGED WITH ST. ANTHONY IN SHEFFIELD (rather than St. Luke in Youngsville). St. Anthony has no nursing homes or hospital responsibilities (now that Holy Redeemer has pastoral responsibility for Warren State Hospital) and is the smaller of the 2 parishes (St. Anthony and St. Luke) with less parish activities. This above suggestion was also the original suggestion our pastoral council made when asked to complete the parish snapshots in the summer of last year. There is only a distance of one mile between Holy Redeemer and St. Joseph in Warren. So the change in distance in this proposed change would be FROM 10 miles between St. Joseph and St. Luke and 12 miles between Holy Redeemer and St. Anthony TO 11 miles between Holy Redeemer and St. Luke and 13 miles between St. Joseph and St. Anthony.

The new parishes would look like this:

St. Joseph (St. Joseph and St. Anthony) with responsibility for St. Joseph Catholic School, Warren General Hospital, Warren Manor (nursing home) and Cambridge Home.

Holy Redeemer (Holy Redeemer and St. Luke) with responsibility for Warren State Hospital, the Rouse, Golden Living Nursing Home and the Watson Home.

Obviously if this recommendation was considered by the bishop, much more conversation would be necessary with Holy Redeemer, St. Anthony and St. Luke but for now we just need to focus on what our parish believes is best for the pastoral care of our area and making the best recommendation to the bishop.

Please let me know directly (email or phone call) if you have significant concerns about this change in our restructuring recommendation by Friday, June 10th. If I do not hear from you, I will understand the reasoning behind this adjustment and that you support it.

May God bless our Corpus Christi Celebration and our week ahead!

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Rich

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

Notes from the pastor...

****New Seminarian for Summer** Bishop Persico and the faculty of St. Mark Seminary have asked us to host another seminarian for summer formation. Robert Nicastro, who is studying at St. Marys in Baltimore (where Jamie also was), and is a native of St. Jude Parish in Erie, will be joining us THIS weekend and stay for 10 weeks until early August. Please extend a warm St. Joseph welcome to Robert!

****RCIA Inquiry Meeting** Are you or anyone you know considering becoming Catholic or completing your Sacramental Initiation in our faith through Confirmation? There will be an **Inquiry Meeting on Tuesday, May 31st at 6:30pm in the office board room.** Please contact me at the office if you plan to attend or want to recommend someone for me to follow up.

****St. Joseph Catholic School Endowment** Hopefully you received a letter in the mail in the last few weeks regarding the newly reestablished school endowment at St. Joseph. Thank you to everyone who has responded so far and helped us get it to its present level of \$93,525. The school endowment is part of the expectation of the recent school plan and is a great way to provide more security for the school’s future. With next year’s enrollment at its highest since I have been here (120) and having two third grade and kindergarten classes, this is an endeavor worthy of investing. For more information on making a donation, please contact the school or parish office.

****Corpus Christi Celebration** It is a great tradition in our Catholic faith to hold Eucharistic Processions on this feast and such processions are fast gaining popularity among younger Catholics who never experienced them in their youth, and older Catholics seem glad to see them return. A custom originating in 13th century Belgium, Eucharistic processions marking the local Feast of Corpus Christi quickly spread around Europe and eventually led to the feast day being adopted for the universal Church in the late 1200s. St. Thomas Aquinas himself composed the liturgy for the Corpus Christi Mass, including the famous “Pange Lingua” and “Tantum Ergo” prayers/songs. Originally celebrated on the Thursday after Trinity Sunday, the Feast of Corpus Christi has been transferred to the following Sunday in the United States. People in the procession might sing, pray, or walk silently. Temporary altars are set up at various locations for special prayers. In some parishes, First Communicants wear their formal clothes. Processions end with Benediction, a short liturgy that ends with the Host being returned to (“reposed in”) the Tabernacle. As one priest from California wrote “I believe the Eucharistic procession is a fantastic sign that reminds us of what we are all called to do when we process out of the church after the typical dismissal of Mass. What we are called to do with the words spoken to us, and the Eucharist we have just consumed, is to take them out, literally, through our human bodies, into the neighborhoods and into the marketplaces.”

Please consider joining your parish family in honoring our Lord Jesus whose REAL PRESENCE is found in the Eucharist, and to witness to our community that His presence is the heart of our community and faith.

Mercy Meter

MERCY METER This is the last weekend for window cleaner, Clorox wipes and laundry detergent. In June we collect **Peanut Butter and Jelly!** Who doesn't love a good PB&J... let's fill the pantry of the Salvation Army for all those kiddos who will spend their summer there. This week take flowers to the cemetery and honor a loved one and/or a veteran.

PARISH NEWS

SENIOR MASS AND BRUNCH Next Sunday, June 5, we will celebrate our Seniors at the 10:30am Mass. They will participate in many of our ministries for the Mass and afterwards Seniors and their families will have brunch in Meyer Hall.

DEACON JAMES POWER ORDINATION Join us at St. Peter's Cathedral at 7pm in Erie on June 10th 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. Deadline to secure a seat is June 5th. We are giving a parish gift to Jamie as well. Please stop by the parish office with those donations.

HOUSE OF HOPE SHOE DONATION The House of Hope is collecting new or used, gently worn shoes, sandals and boots until June 10th. Shoe donations will be turned in for cash to help support the House of Hope. It also supports micro-enterprises in developing nations. PLUS it reduces what goes into landfills! A large box is located in the main vestibule to deposit your donations. Thank you.

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 Sunday, June 12. As in years past, we cannot accept old computers/monitors, large exercise equipment or gas powered equipment. At the same time, we will have the scrap metal dumpster in the 4th Street parking lot. Do not bring televisions, computers, monitors, etc.

PLEASE NOTE: We are **NOT** having an electronics drive this year.

CHANGE FOR LIFE Due to an overwhelming response, we ran out of baby bottles on Mother's Day. We have received additional bottles. Please take one home with you and fill up with your spare change and return them on Father's Day, June 19th. All proceeds benefit the Pregnancy Support Center of Warren.

DON'T WAIT to make a difference in this life. Make the difference today! Our youth need faith filled, energized adults to guide them and teach them about the goodness and greatness of our Catholic faith. Be the Difference. Be the Difference today! Call Jennifer at 688-3842 to find out what you can do to be the change you wish to see in this world.

PARISH DIRECTORIES Finally! We have received confirmation the pictorial directories should be here around the third week of June. If you had a family photo taken, you will receive a free directory. There may be a few extras which can be purchased once the others are given out. Thank you for your patience during this process.

DARIEN LAKE Calling all Altar Servers! Fr. Rich thanks you for your service during the past year. To show our appreciation, we are inviting you to go to Darien Lake on Wednesday, June 29th for a family fun day. Not a server? You can still come along for all the fun. Cost for servers is free; non-servers, both youth and adults, is \$50.⁰⁰. Price includes the bus and admission into the theme/water parks. You are responsible for food. Deadline is June 15th!

ADULT FORMATION NEWS

The summer months are almost upon us. Before you head on vacation or home for a staycation for rest and relaxation, stop in to the parish library. There are many good summer reads; it's a great time to learn more about your favorite saint. Sign out your favorite books or dvd's and return them when you get back. The parish library is always open.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL will be here before you know it (August 1-5)! Don't miss out on a fantastic opportunity this summer to be a part of this amazing experience. EGYPT will be our largest, most fantastic summer bible school experience yet. Ages 3-grade 5 sign up today for fun, friends and faith. 6-12th graders and adults call Jennifer today at 688-3842 and sign up to make a difference this summer!

DIVINE MERCY PILGRIMAGE Join us as we visit the National Shrine of Divine Mercy in Stockbridge, MA from August 9-11. Additional site stops: Shrine of Our Lady of Martyrs, The Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception and the Most Holy Trinity Catholic Chapel at West Point. Reservations are due by July 7 to secure a seat on the bus. Forms can be found at the doors of the Church.

CHILD PROTECTION AND CREATING SAFE ENVIRONMENTS Everyday we need to protect our most valuable gift from God—our children! Parents, guardians and adults who care for children face constant challenges when trying to help keep them safe in today's fast-paced world. *The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children* (NCMEC) offers easy-to-use safety resources to help address these challenges. Visit the NCMEC web site at www.missingkids.com and check out the helpful topics. To see what the Diocese of Erie is doing to help create safe environments, check out www.eriecd.org/protectyouth.htm

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY HfH is a nonprofit, ecumenical Christian housing ministry. Seeking to eliminate poverty housing and homelessness from the world and to make decent shelter a matter of conscience and action. Our affiliate has built and constructed 8 homes here in City of Warren. Our latest is outside the city of Warren, in Clarendon. Habitat for Humanity is seeking applicants for this next home. Applications are available at the Public Library, EOC and online at: habitatwarrenpa.org

VOLUNTEERING AT SAINT JOSEPH CATHOLIC SCHOOL Volunteers are always welcome and needed at St. Joseph Catholic School. Currently, there are two very important volunteer positions in need of an instructor. The first is Spanish which is taught in grades 3, 4 and 5. One afternoon is required to provide this service. The second position is supplemental mathematics which is also taught in grades 3, 4 and 5. This also requires one afternoon per week. We have the materials and lesson plans if you feel qualified, you will find working with the children to be a true joy. Call the school office, 723-2030, for any questions which you may have.

SCRIP Please remember to purchase SCRIP for all your summer activities. Lunch, dinner dates, vacation and home improvements, we have the cards for very occasion. All proceeds benefit St. Joseph Catholic School with no added expense to you!

From the Halls of St. Joseph Catholic School

We are having our annual rummage sale June 16, 17 and 18th. Please think of us when spring cleaning your home and garage. If you would like to volunteer to help, please Call the school or parish office. We will also have the scrap metal dumpster in the 4th street parking lot the month of June. We are not having a technology drive this year. We are unable to take computers, monitors, televisions and the like for the scrap drive or the rummage sale.

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Sunday, 5/29 - The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ (Corpus Christi)
 8:00am John Baker by Dave & Mary Lopez
 10:30am Living and Deceased Parishioners of Saint Joseph

Monday, 5/30 - Weekday (Memorial Day)
 9:00am Mass will be celebrated at Saint Joseph Cemetery

Tuesday, 5/31 - The Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary
 12:05pm Margaret Piccirillo by Betty Donovan

Wednesday, 6/1 - Saint Justin
 9:05am Special Intention

Thursday, 6/2 - Saints Marcellinus and Peter
 12:05pm Alice Tomasone by Tony & Sally Marino

Friday, 6/3 - The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus
 8:00am Richard & Elizabeth Sharp by Family

Saturday, 6/4 - The Immaculate Heart of the Blessed Virgin Mary
 8:00am Carrie Randas by Rose Troyan
 5:30pm Shirley Rizzardi by Family

Sunday, 6/5 - Tenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
 8:00am Jack Suppa by Parinella Family
 10:30am Living and Deceased Parishioners of Saint Joseph

Monday 2 Peter 1:2-7; Gospel - Mark 12:1-12

Tuesday Zephaniah 3:14-18a or Romans 12:9-16; Gospel - Luke 1:39-56

Wednesday 2 Timothy 1:1-3, 6-12; Gospel - Mark 12:18-27

Thursday 2 Timothy 2:8-15; Gospel - Mark 12:28-34

Friday Ezekiel 34:11-16; Romans 5:5b-11; Gospel - Luke 15:3-7

Saturday 2 Timothy 4:1-8; Gospel - Luke 2:41-51

Sunday 1 Kings 17:17-24; Galatians 1:11-19; Gospel - Luke 7:11-17

WEEKLY SANCTUARY CANDLES *in memory of*
John & Jean Baker by Family

COMING EVENTS

Sunday, May 29
 11:30am Corpus Christ Procession
 12:45pm Pot Luck lunch (Gym)

Monday, May 30
 Parish Office Closed
 NO School
 9:00am Memorial Day Mass (St. Joseph Cemetery)

Tuesday, May 31
 4:30pm Soup Kitchen (Cafeteria)
 6:30pm RCIA Inquiry Session (Boardroom)

Wednesday, June 1
 9:05am School Mass (Church)
 10:30am Faith Share (Meyer Hall)
 5:30pm School Advisory Board Meeting (Rectory)

Thursday, June 2
 12:30pm Adoration (Mother's Chapel)
 3:30pm Adult Formation (Boardroom)
 5:30pm Reposition (Mother's Chapel)
 7:00pm Prayer Shawl (Meyer Hall)

Friday, June 3
 Homebound Communion
 8:30am Bus departs for all day school trip to Waldameer Park

Saturday, June 4
 4:30pm Reconciliation (Church)

Sunday, June 5
 10:30am Senior Mass (Church)
 11:45am Senior Brunch (Meyer Hall)



LITURGICAL MINISTRY SCHEDULES

	<u>Lector</u>	<u>Extraordinary Ministers</u>	<u>Altar Servers</u>
6/4 5:30pm	H/H LeMeur	R Kujawa, A Kiehl, B McAvoy, F Perrin, M Sowa, J Zavinski	J Funari J Funari
6/5 8:00am	M Smelko	B Smelko, J & R Cecco, R & P Osche, P Rickert	C Smelko L Smelko
6/5 10:30am	M Reiff E Suppa K Lobdell	P Lobdell, T Siliano, M Trachier, V & J Siliano, A & P Webster	W Bablak D Funari K Wagner

Weekly Donations - May 15: \$ 9,434
 CSA Pledged: \$117,151; Paid to date: \$ 68,265
 School Endowment: \$93,525
 Thank you for your continued generosity!

SPONSOR OF THE WEEK
Nancy J. Shattuck
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Liturgy Corner

May... Mary's Month We honor our Blessed Mother Mary and seek her intercession by communally reciting the Rosary every day of May after the earliest Mass of the day. Also, consider making a personal commitment to honor Mary this month and crown or decorate your Mary statues in your yards and homes.

Memorial Day Mass Do not forget that the only Mass held on Memorial Day (Monday, May 30th) is at the cemetery at 9am. Fr. Rich will be presiding.

VOCATIONS ICON

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