

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

To my family of St. Joseph,

Happy Catechetical Sunday! This weekend we start a new year of faith formation here at St. Joseph with the goal of drawing us all into deeper communion with our great God and allowing God to strengthen us as a community of faith. Our Salt and Light Youth Formation Classes for Kindergarten-Ninth Grade will be held from 9-10:20am. Then at the 10:30 Mass we will ask God's blessings on our catechists for Salt and Light and our religion teachers at St. Joseph Catholic School. There will be a light reception after the Mass where parents can meet their children's catechists as well. Next week there will be a parent meeting for all parents of Salt & Light students in Meyer Hall at 9:10am.

We will continue the new approach to Faith Formation that we introduced through the Salt Light Program last year since there was an overall positive response to the program. Recall that the main goal of the new program is to provide a more well-rounded experience of faith for our youth through catechesis, service, prayer and community (4 pillars). So our students can get credit for approved activities outside of our religious education classes happening within and outside of our parish that involve those pillars.

Ideally it would not be just our youth seeking to round out their faith formation, but our adults as well. So I am asking all our adults, but especially our parents of the Salt and Light Youth, to commit to coming to the **adult catechetical sessions that we are providing three times throughout the year (Sundays- October 23, December 11, April 23 from 9-10:15am)**. What a witness it would be to our youth if our adults exemplified how important continuing faith formation is by doing it themselves as well!! Another opportunity for combined adult and youth formation is a new initiative by the Diocese called "Family Fest." **This Family Faith Rally will be held on Sunday, November 13th from 11am-5pm and includes Mass with Bishop Persico at 4pm.** It is to be held at the Ambassador Banquet and Conference Center, Peach Street, Erie, PA. This will be our parish faith formation for that weekend and you will get Salt and Light credit for going. We would love to have enough families going to require a bus from Warren. More information on this exciting opportunity has been sent to all our families and we will provide more reinforcement in the bulletin as the Family Fest nears.

Please keep our upcoming Salt and Light Year in your prayers that the Holy Spirit inspire our youth, adults, and catechists to grow deeper in love with Him and in understanding of our great faith!

May God bless our week ahead as well as our new Faith Formation year ahead!

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Rich

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

St. Joseph pray for us!

St. Theresa of Calcutta.... pray for us!

Notes from the pastor...

****Picnic Gratitude** Thank you to everyone who participated in the Parish Picnic last weekend! We had about 250 people enjoy Mass, lunch, fellowship, activities, and a gorgeous day in Warren's great outdoors. A special thank you to Katie Courson and the Pastoral Council who organized the event and all those who helped in any way.

****Diocese of Erie Pastoral Planning** This week at three meetings throughout the Diocese, Bishop Persico will announce the final decisions for parish restructuring including possible mergers to effect St. Joseph, Holy Redeemer, St. Luke and St. Anthony here in Warren County. The comments I made last weekend in regard to optimism for

our country continue to be very relevant for our Diocese as well. No matter what the announcements are, I hope and pray we can all remain optimistic about our future and trust that God is working through this process. We have done the work of giving input and praying for the last two years, now the work of being reborn will begin.... Let's be open to it!

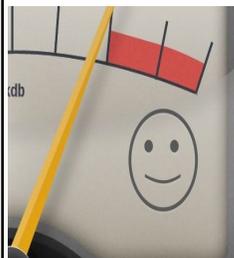
****Mini-Pilgrimage to Bradford Door of Mercy** On **Monday, September 26th** I will be leading a group from our parish to the Holy Door at the Divine Mercy Chapel at St. Bernard Parish in Bradford (they are one of the seven designated Doors of Mercy Sites in the Diocese of Erie). We will attend 8am Mass at St. Joseph in Warren and then car pool to Bradford for a visit/Divine Mercy Chaplet and brunch. Return to Warren is expected to be by Noon. Please call the parish office if you would like to make a reservation.

****Thoughts on the 15th Anniversary of 9-11** 9-11 was a tragic day that in many ways changed our world forever. Heightened security checks, immigration debates, terrorism concerns, and other real issues and changes have resulted. Many of us would see these as negative results or impacts from this event. But I also remember the ways that many of us were able to see God bring good from this evil day-Americans were united in a way they had not been in years; "God bless America" being sung at games and public events as an apparent sign of our country remembering it's spiritual roots and seeking God's help and blessing in this time of need; a healthy expression of pride in our country and the patriotism and responsibility that comes from being a faithful citizen of the United States; an outpouring of support to first responders not only in New York and those who responded directly to the attacks, but also appreciating them in every community; an overall greater kindness, courteousness and overt willingness to smile to people in the streets that we do not know; and a greater desire to seize the moment and live every day to it's fullness including appreciating the most important things in life. Maybe not all of us experienced or witnessed these positives elements of American life after 9-11 but I certainly know that many did in New York and throughout our country.

I would hope and pray that on this anniversary we can be renewed in those positive virtues and focal points that 9-11 originally evoked in us. We certainly know that we have many challenges and significant issues and hurdles to overcome as a country. And we also know that the list above is not a complete answer to some of the deeper issues, but it certainly is a movement in the right direction. It is also about celebrating the positive in our country and while also being realistically critical of areas that need change. Part of what we as Catholics can bring to this conversation is hope and optimism in a very pessimistic and severe political and secular world. If we are not hopeful in the midst of national struggle and darkness, who will be? It is not a blind or ignorant optimism of which I speak, but a Christian hope that with faith and trust in God, that things will be ok, if not in this life, then definitely in the next life (if we maintain that right friendship with God that we should all be seeking!) while also recognizing our call to action to be part of the solution.

I hear many people consistently speak about their frustrations and anger over the political climate in our country and to that I always respond... pray, do what you can (including recommitting to those graces that initially came from 9-11), and then let it go. Act upon it and give it over to God. To not act and yet cling to these concerns and allow them to consume us and distract us from living God's love in the moment is doing no one any good. One of my favorite prayers that is appropriate for all areas of life, but certainly relevant for dealing with our imperfect nation and how we should respond to it, is the serenity prayer. I conclude with it here as a summary of what I have said and my prayer for you.... "Lord, grant us the serenity to accept the things we cannot change, the courage to change the things we can, and the wisdom to know the difference."

Mercy Meter



In September we are collecting shampoo, bar soaps, feminine hygiene products, deodorants and lice care products. These items are critical to the needs of all families and these items cannot be purchased with the access card. Please help another family in our community this week. Also this week celebrate the gift that our educators and catechists are to our families and our parish family! Take a prayer for catechist card from the doors of the church and pray for those who care for and encourage your child(ren).

PARISH NEWS

CONGRATULATIONS! We had fun and lots of winners at the Church picnic. We would like to congratulate Jackie Cunningham on winning the porch swing, Jessica Suppa for winning the 50/50 drawing, those who won playing Bingo and the door prize winners.

CATHOLIC EDUCATION COLLECTION This weekend all parishes in the Diocese of Erie will be taking up a special collection in support of Catholic Education. Please be sure to give. Your generosity does make a difference. **Half of the money given by St. Joseph parishioners will remain in our parish to assist with our educational programs.** Please remember in your prayers all who are involved in educational ministries in our parish and throughout our diocese.

CATECHETICAL SUNDAY September 18th we kick off a new year of Faith Formation this week. It's not too late to join our amazing team. Call Jennifer today at 723-2090 ext 15. Volunteer in this Year of Mercy to make a difference in the life of a child. Reminder to parents—there is a parent meeting next Sunday, September 25 at 9:10am in Meyer Hall. Please plan to attend if you are a parent of a Salt & Light student.

FALL ADORATION SCHEDULE Adoration is a great opportunity to prayerfully enter into the Holy Eucharist, the very heart and soul of Mercy! **We are in need of one regular adorers from 7:30—8:15, and we can always use more substitute adorers.** No special skills are needed; only the desire to pray. Hours are 12:30pm to 8:15pm. Night prayer and Benediction begin at 8:15. Everyone is most welcome! If you interested, please call Becky 726-2849 or Rita 726-1737.

WARREN MANOR NURSING HOME MINISTRY is looking for more participants. Participation in this ministry (you do not have to be an Extraordinary Minister) only requires 1-1/2 hours of your time about twice a month, Wednesdays from 9:30-11:00am. It is truly appreciated by the Manor Residents, as well as the Manor Staff. Likewise, it is a source of personal spiritual growth for the volunteers who participate as they bring prayer, God's Word and the Holy Eucharist to a very special group of God's people. Please consider joining us in this special and important St. Joseph Church Ministry. For more information please call Pat Christy at 723-4047.

PARENT BAPTISMAL CLASS If you are desiring a Baptism this year for your child(ren) or you are expecting a child this year, please join us for this informative and spiritually enriching program. We will meet in the parish office boardroom on Thursday, September 22nd from 6:30-8:00 pm. Call Jennifer at 723-2090 ext 15 to sign up today.

ALTAR SERVER TRAINING There will be an altar server training on Thursday, September 29th from 6:00-7:30 pm in the church and another one on Friday, September 30th from 3:30-5:00 pm in the church. You only need to attend one if you are interested

in becoming an altar server. Students must have received First Eucharist to be eligible. Please text or call Jennifer at 723-2090 ext 15 to register or if you have any questions.

SCRIP The leaves are starting to turn, the air is crisp in the morning, fall is headed our way. As you shop for comfort food, make that coat and boot purchase or head to a birthday party, remember to purchase SCRIP cards first. The proceeds benefit St. Joseph Catholic School with no added expense to you!

SIGN-UP TODAY! Sign-ups have begun for Children and Youth Music Ministry. Information, sign-up forms and a complete schedule can be found on the parish website. New this year, a Teen Praise Team, comprised of instrumentalists and vocalists. Does your teen play guitar, ukulele, flute, violin, percussion, piano, etc.? Does your teen love to sing Praise and Worship? Interested instrumentalists should prepare a song that represents their skill level. A listening session is scheduled for Sunday, Sept. 18 from 6-6:30pm (or schedule a time with Mrs. Harvey if this is inconvenient). Contact Rachel Harvey at 706-2262 or singplay@yahoo.com with questions.

PASTORAL COUNCIL wants the parish to be aware and to keep up with the direction of Saint Joseph Church. The meeting minutes are available for anyone to review in the parish office.

DESIGNER BAG BINGO Our CHWC-Rome CCY will host this fun event on November 11, 2016. Tickets are \$30 per person and include 16 games of bingo (9 cards per game); a bingo dauber; light snacks and non-alcoholic beverages (you are welcome to BYOB). You must be 21 to attend. Doors open at 5:30pm and bingo begins at 7pm. For tickets or questions, contact Katie Courson 730-6689 or kcourson@darlingshomecare.com

AROUND THE AREA

Pierogi Sale St. John Church will be making pierogi for their booth at the fishing tournament in Tidioute, PA on September 22nd, 23rd, 24th and 25th. The cost will be \$9.00 per dozen or \$5.00 per half dozen. To pre-order frozen pierogi before the tournament, please call Fran O'Hosky at 814-484-7157. They look forward to seeing you at the tournament.

Lioness Club of Warren The Warren Lioness Club is looking for ladies who have some extra time and are willing to help others. The Warren Lioness club would love to have you join their team. Their meetings are held on the first Monday of the month at Perkin's Restaurant at 5:30pm. If you are interested, please contact Kathleen Jones, Lioness Secretary at 728-3502.

Overnight Retreat The Sisters in Catholic Rural Ministry invite you to a time of prayerful reflection the "adventure of mercy" during the Jubilee Year. October 4-5 from noon to noon at Olmsted Manor Conference Center in Ludlow, PA To register, call 677-2032. The deadline is September 27th. Cost is \$50—which includes the retreat, 4 meals and overnight accommodations.

SAINT JOSEPH CATHOLIC SCHOOL

We started a new school year this week and we are so excited to have our new principal, Mrs. Warner, greet us each morning. Many of us are walking to school so please be aware we out and Crossing streets both in the morning and the afternoon.



We received the last check for the Scrap Metal drive we had in June and July. The proceeds totaled \$795.38. Thank you to everyone who helped. A special thanks to Rob Gatto and Dan Zdarko for monitoring and keeping our grounds looking nice through the summer months.

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Sunday, 9/18 - Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time
 8:00am Jeffrey Gazdak by Frank Papalia Family
 10:30am Living and Deceased Parishioners of Saint Joseph (Adult Choir)

Monday, 9/19 - Saint Januarius
 8:00am Mary Margaret O'Neil by Dan & Mary Ann Zdarko

Tuesday, 9/20 - Saints Andrew Kim Tae-gon and Paul Chong Ha-sang
 12:05pm Ruby Cataldo by Mike & Lisa Lewis

Wednesday, 9/21 - Saint Matthew, Apostle—School Mass
 9:05am Mike & Marie Bleech by Ron & Barb Phillips
 1:30pm Living & Deceased Members of Catholic Daughters of America #834 at Warren Manor

Thursday, 9/22 - Weekday
 12:05pm Anna Mae Gray by Family

Friday, 9/23 - Saint Pius of Pietreicina
 8:00am Robert & Flora Weidert by Family

Saturday, 9/24 - Weekday
 8:00am Bernard & Esther Lignian (Ann) by Estate
 5:30pm Living and Deceased Parishioners of Saint Joseph

Sunday, 9/25 - Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time
 8:00am Ralph & Jenell Thomas by Dan & Sandy Glotz
 10:30am Deceased Members of Derr & Williams Families (Adult Choir)

Monday Proverbs 3:27-34; Gospel - Luke 8:16-18
Tuesday Proverbs 21:1-6, 10-13; Gospel - Luke 8:19-21
Wednesday Ephesians 4:1-7, 11-13; Gospel - Matthew 9:9-13
Thursday Ecclesiastes 1:2-11; Gospel - Luke 9:7-9
Friday Ecclesiastes 3:1-11; Gospel - Luke 9:18-22
Saturday Ecclesiastes 11:9—12:8; Gospel - Luke 9:43b-45
Sunday Amos 6:1a, 4-7; 1 Timothy 6:11-16; Gospel - Luke 16:19-31

WEEKLY SANCTUARY CANDLES in memory of
Jean Baker by Family

COMING EVENTS

Sunday, September 18
 9:00am K-9 Faith Formation (School)
 10:30am Catechetical Sunday Mass (Church)
 1:00pm SJCS Golf Scramble (Cable Hollow Golf Course)
 6:00pm Listening Session for Youth Praise Team (School)
 6:30pm HS/MS CCY Ice Cream Social (Youth Room)

Tuesday, September 20
 4:30pm Soup Kitchen (Cafeteria)

Wednesday, September 21
 10:30am Faith Share (Meyer Hall)
 6:30pm RCIA (Meyer Hall)
 7:00pm Choir Practice (Church)

Thursday, September 22
 12:30pm Adoration (Mother's Chapel)
 6:30pm Parent Baptismal Meeting (Loranger Hall)
 8:15pm Night Prayer & Benediction (Mother's Chapel)

Friday, September 23
 8:45am Peace Pole Ceremony (School)

Saturday, September 24
 6:00am-10:00am Blood Screening (Gym)
 4:30pm Reconciliation (Church)

Sunday, September 25
 Coffee / Donuts after Masses (Cafeteria)
 9:00am K-9 Faith Formation (School)
 9:10am Parent Meeting (Meyer Hall)
 1:00pm Sunrise Rehearsal (Church)
 6:30pm Doors of Mercy Session (Meyer Hall)

In your charity, please pray for the soul of Donald Sowa, father of **Steve Sowa** and Kristen Rose whose Rite of Christian Burial was celebrated on Thursday, September 15th. Also pray for the soul of **Francine Vavala** who passed away. We extend our sympathy to their families, and ask God's love and strength to bring them peace and consolation.

LITURGICAL MINISTRY SCHEDULES

	<u>Lector</u>	<u>Extraordinary Ministers</u>	<u>Altar Servers</u>
9/24 5:30pm	M Sandberg	A Kiehl, J Caumban-Lim, F Perrin, P Bailey, *J Zavinski, Volunteer	O Stranburg I Darling
9/25 8:00am	M Smelko	B Smelko, R & P Osche, B & B Crowley, P Rickert	L Smelko N Smelko
9/25 10:30am	V Amsdell	G & *M Belleau, R Beyer, *B Harvey, C Luppino, D Bogniak, A Kirkpatrick	M Wortman T Bablak R Courson

1:38 Women's Conference
Just two more weeks until 1:38 Women—register now! Are you looking to discover God's will in your life? Do you want to bring hope into the world? Then join your sisters from across the Diocese of Erie and beyond for the third annual 1:38 Women's conference. This day of inspiration, spiritual growth and worship, open to women of all faiths, will feature national speakers — including Leah Darrow, Mother Mary Assumpta Long, O.P., Emily Jaminet and Michele Faehnle, adoration, reconciliation and Mass with Bishop Lawrence Persico. The conference will be held at the beautiful Warner Theatre in Erie on Sat., Oct. 1, from 9am-3:30pm (check-in begins at 8am). Registration is only \$40/person or \$25/student and includes lunch and free parking. For more information and to register visit www.138women.com or call 814-455-7364.

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

*Weekly Donations - September 11: \$ 5,368
 CSA Pledged: \$124,522; Paid to date: \$ 97,615
 Thank you for your continued generosity!*

SPONSOR OF THE WEEK

Mark E. Donick, D.D.S.
723-3454 / General Dentistry

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