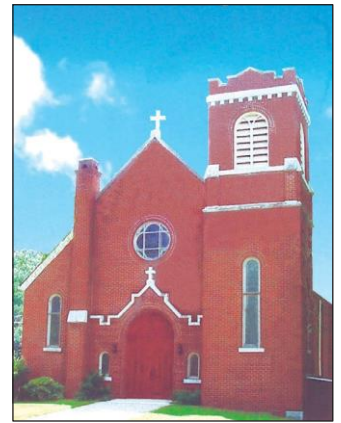


SAINT STEPHEN CHURCH
Oil City, PA

Rev. Matthew Ruyechan, Priest
Tim Wren, Deacon
Mrs. Marge Hajduk, Principal
Mrs. Dianne Phillips, Religious Education Coordinator
Fr. Justin Pino, Confirmation Director



SAINT VENANTIUS CHURCH
Rouseville, PA

PASTORAL PLANNING PRAYER

Loving God, author of creation, Your spirit pervades and enriches our world. Through your Son, who shares our humanity, You have called us to participate in your divine creativity and to build the kingdom of God here on earth. For us, we pray, as one community under the leadership of our bishop to serve all the people of this region in your name.

Inspire us to discover new ways and structures to spread your Gospel. Open our eyes to Christ in others, especially the poor, the sick and the marginalized. Empower us to be the hands and feet of Christ in our parishes and communities. Help us to welcome all into His embrace.

Guide us in our discernment, as we pray with Pope Francis for the vision to see new paths of possibility; for a spirit of mission that invigorates our every effort; and for the strength to be unafraid of what is new. We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Rectory/Chapel	210 Reed St.	677-3020
St. Stephen Church	21 State St.	Oil City
St. Venantius	403 Main St.	Rouseville
St. Stephen School	214 Reed St.	677-3035
Venango Catholic H. S.	1505 W. First St.	677-3098
Religious Education	35 Pearl Ave.	677-4004
St. Elizabeth Center	311 Emerald St.	677-0203
FAX #		678-8841

PRAYER NETWORK:

Mary Firster (676-1219) or e-mail her at marych@usachoice.net

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Baptisms on the 4th Sunday of the month. Please call the rectory to schedule an appointment for preparation sessions and Baptism.

SACRAMENT OF MATRIMONY

Couples are to contact the Pastor at least six months in advance.

SACRAMENT OF PENANCE

Saturdays at 4:00 pm at St. Stephen or by appointment.

WEBSITE

www.saint-stephens.org

BULLETIN DEADLINE:

Monday, 12:00 noon

SUNDAY MASS SCHEDULE

St. Stephen Church - 21 State Street, Oil City

Saturday: 5:30 pm Vigil

Sunday: 7:30 am, 9:00 am and 11:30 am

St. Venantius Church - 403 Main St., Rouseville

Sunday: 10:00 am

RECTORY OFFICE HOURS:

9:00 am - 4:00 pm Monday through Friday.





MASS SCHEDULE FOR THE WEEK

MONDAY **January 4, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton**
 7:00 AM Dan Lander (Bob & Kathleen Puleo)

TUESDAY **January 5, St. John Neumann**
 7:00 AM St. Stephen Parishioners (Anonymous)

WEDNESDAY **January 6**
 7:00 AM Candace Lauer (Francis & Evelyn Lauer & Jerry & Janice Lauer)

THURSDAY **January 7**
 7:00 AM Paul Porterfield (Family)

FRIDAY **January 8**
 7:00 AM Joe Foy Sr. (Joe & Deleen Foy)
 1:45 p.m. (School) Tillie Hinds (Altar Rosary Society)

SATURDAY **January 9**
 7:00 AM For Members of Our Parish Community
 5:30 PM (Vigil) Helen Jasiota (Connie Drelick & Family)

SUNDAY **The Baptism of the Lord**
 7:30 AM Marion & Howard Henderson (Larry)
 9:00 AM Bob Fletcher (Dot Monahan & Joyce Morgan)

10:00 AM (St. Venantius) Sara Carone (Bob & Kay Carone)
 11:30 AM Robert P. Wheeler (Sue Williams)

THIS WEEKS CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SUNDAY **January 3**
 Eucharistic Ministers for the Homebound
 Should Pick Up New Schedules-Sacristy

8:30 a.m. Pray the Rosary – Church
 Sweet Sunday-Social Center
 (after 9 a.m. Mass)

8:45-10:45 a.m. Rel. Ed. – 9th Gr. – OLHC
 9-11 a.m. Rel. Ed. – P/K-Grade 8 & 10-School

MONDAY **January 4**
School Resumes

TUESDAY **January 5**
 7:00 p.m. RCIA – Social Center

SATURDAY **January 9**
 4:00 p.m. Confessions - Church

Points to ponder from Fr. Matt

It's amazing to think that The Baby Jesus was sought after by the "pagan" Magi. It reminds us that we need not just belong to a religion but we need to be people searching for the truth, searching for God. We never capture or encapsulate God. If we feel we are at that point, it's necessary to put ourselves in Pilgrim Mode. Let us enter the New Year with renewed desire to be wise men and wise women.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF JANUARY 4-10

MON: 1 Jn 3:22—4:6/Mt 4:12-25
TUES:..... 1 Jn 4:7-10/Mk 6:34-44
WED:..... 1 Jn 4:11-18/Mk 6:45-52
THURS:..... 1 Jn 4:19—5:4/Lk 4:14-22
FRI: 1 Jn 5:5-13/Lk 5:12-16
SAT: 1 Jn 5:14-21/Jn 3:22-30
SUN:..... Is 42:1-7/Acts 10:34-38/Lk 3:15-22

FAMILY PERSPECTIVE: Epiphany ~ After meeting Jesus, the Magi returned home by "another way." What in your family needs to be done "another way?" Do you need "another way to resolve differences, to communicate or show affection? This is a new year, time to change what isn't working. Take a tip from some wise men, there's always "another way."

MARRIAGE MOMENTS: The 3 Magi (kings or wise men) recognized power in the unlikely person of a baby. Indeed it is wisdom that helps us see the Godliness within the ordinary people in our lives. Our beloved may seem pretty ordinary today. Look for the Godliness within.



PLANNING A WEDDING IN 2016? Congratulations! Please contact Fr. Matt at least six months prior to your wedding.

An *Engagement Encounter* weekend is scheduled for January 22nd through 24th at St. Mark Catholic Center in Erie. EE satisfies diocesan requirements for marriage in the Church. Catholic and interfaith couples are encouraged to attend. Contact the Family Life Office at 814-824-1261, or by email at familylife@erieRCD.org or visit our Web site at <http://www.eriegcd.org/familylifeoffice.asp> for more information.

ST. ELIZABETH CENTER is located at 311 Emerald Street. They can always use staple items for the food center such as peanut butter, canned fruit, crackers, cereal, pasta, spaghetti sauce, noodles, boxed meals, etc.

The Center also accepts and appreciates those who so generously gave through the holidays. If you would like to give a monetary contribution, please mail directly to the center on Emerald Street. For more information about the center and the services they offer, call them at 677-0203. For your convenience, their phone is listed on the front of our bulletin weekly.

WISHING YOU PEACE, HEALTH AND
HAPPINESS IN 2016!

SERVERS FOR – January 9-10

5:30 Colin Deeter/Gavin Empson
7:30 Hunter Lancaster/Volunteer Needed
9:00 Daniel/Matthew McQuaide
11:30 Molly Mietus/Taylor Readmond-Mietus

LECTORS FOR – January 9-10

5:30 Mareeta Durney
7:30 Mike Horos
9:00 Cindy Urban
11:30 Barb Reszkowski

EUCCHARIST MINISTERS FOR – January 9-10

5:30 Jean Allison, Mareeta Durney, Deb Lutz, Mike Morrison, Susan Stewart
7:30 Cheryl Donze, Dan Karg
9:00 Dan/Jacki Moltz, Dawn Salata, Ray Stiglitz, Mary Vinopal
11:30 Tom Karg, Leon/Kathy Kulinski, Bob/Deb Schumacher

THE PEOPLE IN OUR PARISH:

SINCERE SYMPATHY is offered to the family and friends of *Anne Cangemi*. May she and all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS those who are sick, in nursing homes or hospitalized as well as those who serve us in the military.

WELCOME Addison Leigh Kulinski, daughter of Matthew and Michele (McElhinny) Kulinski who was baptized December 27th.

SPONSOR OF THE WEEK

We would like to thank **KTC, KLAPEC TRUCKING CO.** for sponsoring an ad weekly in our bulletin.

A DONATION TO THE 2ND CENTURY FUND was made for *Art Lander* by his wife Jane.



SERVANTS OF ST. STEPHEN:

Thanks to Kathleen Puleo, Coordinator and those in the Parish Clerical Group that offer to help stuff bulletins with bi-monthly. Your help is appreciated more than you know.

CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS FOR 2015: This year we are asking anyone needing a tax contribution statement to call us at the rectory (677-3020) during normal business hours by January 15 to let us know as we will NOT be sending them out automatically even if you have requested in prior years.



ADDITIONAL CHRISTMAS FLOWER donations received after publication of our memorial flyer: **FOR ST. STEPHENS:** William V. and James A. Stralka by Dorothy Stralka; **FOR:** Cangemi Family by Family; **FOR** Gordon & Chuck; by Patricia Bickel. **FOR ST. VENANTIUS:** Donations from Father Chris Barnes and Lori Hugar.

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

SWEET SUNDAY is this weekend (Sunday, January 3rd). Join members of the Rosary Society at 8:30 a.m. to pray the rosary then plan to come downstairs to the social center after 9 a.m. Mass for fellowship and refreshments. All are welcome.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION students resume class today, Sunday, January 3rd. P/K thru 8 and grade 10 meet at the school from 9-11 a.m. 9th Grade meets at Our Lady Help of Christian from 8:45-10:45 a.m.

RCIA resumes meeting this week (Tuesday, January 5) at 7 p.m. in the Social Center.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY will be back in session this weekend. The children, together with an adult leader will share the Gospel in words they will understand and offer prayer and discussion during the 9 a.m. Mass. If you have a child between the ages of 4-8, please consider having them participate.



THANK YOU! Those that received gifts from the Jesse Tree are grateful to everyone who gave so generously. Thank you all for purchasing, wrapping and returning your gifts in a timely manner thus assuring the recipient had a Merry Christmas which might not have been possible without your thoughtfulness.

EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS who visit the homebound on Sunday are asked to pick up their new schedule in the Server's Sacristy this weekend as the new schedules begin this weekend.



THE NEXT BAPTISMAL CLASS in our area will be held at St. Patrick's Staff Room of Dion Auditorium at 10 a.m. Saturday, February 6 for parents planning Baptism in the next few months. We ask all first time parents to attend as well as those who have not attended in the last 3 years (as a refresher). No need to wait until your child is born. Godparents are welcome but not required to attend. As you know, these classes are only held four times a year and we urge parents to plan ahead. Please call St. Patrick's to pre-register at 437-5763.

ROSARY MEMBERS can pick up the newest edition of Living Faith for January/February/March in the Server's Sacristy.



THE 22nd ANNUAL REVERSE RAFFLE and Casino Night will be held Saturday, January 30 at the K of C. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. Tickets are \$25 each and must be purchased in advance. Ticket price includes dinner buffet, limited beverages and a chance to win the \$1,500 grand prize. Any party purchasing 8 or more tickets at a time can reserve a table. DJ Posey will have music and karaoke following the raffle. For tickets or more information call the school office at 677-035 or Marj Kalamajka at 677-7172. Must be 21 years of age or older to attend.



PA FOR HUMAN LIFE is taking reservations for a bus to attend the 43rd anniversary of the March for Life in Washington, D.C., Friday, January 22. The bus will leave the Oil City K of C at 11:45 p.m. Thurs. (21st) then pick up at the K of C in Franklin and also one at Kings in Barkeyville if needed. The bus will depart D.C. at 4:30 p.m. and make a stop in Frederick, MD, for dinner. The bus will return to Oil City about 12:30 a.m. Saturday, January 23. Reservations are due by January 14. Cost for the bus is \$50. To reserve your seat, call Judy Anderton at 676-6288.

ST. STEPHEN SCHOOL NEWS

Thanks to all who were involved (buyers and sellers) in making the Big Raffle a success. We will publish a complete list of winners soon (since the bulletin had to be sent early due to the holidays).

There will be a Mass Friday (8th) at 1:45 p.m. at the school. All are welcome.

VENANGO CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL is accepting applications for a part-time *STUDENT TRANSPORTATION DRIVER*. Responsibilities include driving students to and from sites in Venango and Clarion counties before and after school, as well as providing student transportation for extra-curricular activities after school. Candidates must have a valid Pennsylvania driver's license, a clean driving record, and all applicable clearances. A school bus endorsement is preferred. Candidates are invited to forward resumes and supporting materials to Father Shane Mathew at smathew@venangocatholic.org or (814) 677-3098. We are also accepting applications for a part-time *HEALTH AND ANATOMY/PHYSIOLOGY TEACHER* beginning Friday, January 15 for the remainder of the school year. Candidates must have a valid PA Instructional Certificate in Health Education or equivalent professional experience, all applicable clearances, and be willing to present and defend Catholic moral teaching on health care and medical ethics. Candidates are invited to forward resumes and supporting materials to Father Shane Mathew at (814) 677-3098 or smathew@venangocatholic.org.

MOORE RESEARCH SERVICES, a global marketing research firm based in Erie, is exploring attitudes on public & private education in our area. They are looking for parents of children in grades K-12 to complete a brief survey on public and private schools. The survey is brief, approximately 15 minutes in length, and parents can complete the survey online. No personally identifiable information will be shared publicly or used in the research. Parents who complete the survey will have the chance to win one of three \$100 prizes. To complete the survey visit <http://surveys.mooreopinions.com/s/educationchoice/>

CATHOLIC CHARITIES Counseling and Adoption Services can help if you need someone to talk to. Are you feeling on edge, anxious, overwhelmed? Call them at 676-8263 for help in learning ways to manage your stress. A sliding fee scale is available for counseling services.

A PRAYER FOR YEAR OF MERCY

Lord Jesus Christ, you have taught us to be merciful like the heavenly Father, and have told us that whoever sees you sees God.

Show us your face and we will be saved.

You are the visible face of the invisible Father, of the God who manifests his power above all by forgiveness and mercy: let the church be your visible face in the world. Send your Spirit and consecrate every one of us with its anointing, so that the Jubilee of Mercy may be a year of grace from the Lord, and your Church, with renewed enthusiasm, may bring good news to the poor, proclaim liberty to captives and the oppressed, and restore sight to the blind. Amen.

Pope Francis