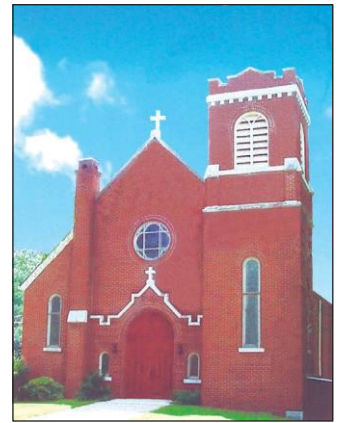


**SAINT STEPHEN CHURCH**  
Oil City, PA

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

**PRAYER NETWORK:**

Mary Firster (676-1219) or e-mail her at [marych@usachoice.net](mailto: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](http://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.





# St. Stephen Church

## Oil City, PA

### MASS SCHEDULE FOR THE WEEK

<b>MONDAY</b>	<b>January 18</b>
7:00 AM	Joseph Tataro (Bob & Jan)
<b>TUESDAY</b>	<b>January 19</b>
7:00 AM	Art Lander (Dick & Cele Schill & Family)
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	<b>January 20</b>
7:00 AM	Bob & Billie Lamberton (Friends)
<b>THURSDAY</b>	<b>January 21, St. Agnes</b>
7:00 AM	For the Poor Souls in Purgatory
<b>10:00 AM</b>	<b>(Oakwood)</b> Hazel Allio (Tom & Debbie Perrine)
<b>FRIDAY</b>	<b>January 22</b>
7:00 AM	For Members of Our Parish Community
1:45 p.m.	(School) Ralph Guth (Betty & Gerry Miller)
<b>SATURDAY</b>	<b>January 23, St. Vincent</b>
7:00 AM	Betsy Schneider (Morning Mass Group)
5:30 PM	<b>(Vigil)</b> Eugene Hartle (Joyce)
<b>SUNDAY</b>	<b>January 24, 3<sup>rd</sup> Ordinary Sunday</b>
7:30 AM	Candace Lauer (Francis/Evelyn Lauer & Jerry/Janice Lauer)
9:00 AM	Pat Kase & Franny Dlugos (Helen Guth)
10:00 AM	<b>(St. Venantius)</b> Steve & Marsha Goreczny (Uncle John & Sandy)
11:30 AM	Joyce Casper (Bob & Kay Carone)

### THIS WEEKS CALENDAR OF EVENTS

<b>SUNDAY</b>	<b>January 17</b>
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Collection "Help Spread the Faith"
	Food Collection for St. Elizabeth Center
8:45-10:45 a.m.	Rel. Ed. – Gr. 9 – OLHC
9-11 a.m.	Rel. Ed. – P/K-8 & 10-School
<b>MONDAY</b>	<b>January 18</b>
	<b>Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday</b>
	<b>(School &amp; Rectory Closed)</b>
<b>TUESDAY</b>	<b>January 19</b>
7:00 p.m.	RCIA – Social Center
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	<b>January 20</b>
10 a.m.	Coordinator Mtg. for Servants of St. Stephen - Rectory
<b>THURSDAY</b>	<b>January 21</b>
11:45 p.m.	Bus leaves K of C (Oil City) for March for Life
<b>FRIDAY</b>	<b>January 22</b>
	March for Life – Washington, D.C.
<b>SATURDAY</b>	<b>January 23</b>
4:00 p.m.	Confessions - Church

**Points to ponder from Fr. Matt**

In the story "The Odyssey", King Odysseus was condemned by Poseidon to roam the earth and never return home. He was exposed to and encountered every calamity known to man. His wife Penelope remained steadfast on awaiting her husband's return. She had a number of pursuers and suitors but she always remained faithful to her husband. Eventually he returned.

In our world today has marriage devolved from being a sacrament, to a convention, to a convenience??? Let us be realistic and optimistic when participating in the marriage covenant.

**READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF JANUARY 18-24**

MON: ..... 1 Sm 15:16-23/Mk 2:18-22  
TUES:..... 1 Sm 16:1-13/Mk 2:23-28  
WED:..... 1 Sm 17:32-51/Mk 3:1-6  
THURS:..... 1 Sm 18:6-9: 19:1-7/Mk 3:3-7-12  
FRI: ..... 1 Sm 24:3-21/Mk 3:13-19  
SAT:..... 2 Sm 1:1-27/Mk 3:20-21  
SUN:..... 1 Cor 12:12-30/Lk 1:1-21

**FAMILY PERSPECTIVE:** At Cana we get a good insight into Mary's parenting style. She did not plead, argue, demand or manipulate. She merely pointed out the situation and trusted her son would make the best decision.

**PRAY THE ROSARY:** Come join others saying the rosary for world peace in this troubled world. We meet every Sunday after the 7:30 a.m. Mass and encourage others to pray with us.

Sunday Morning Rosary Group

**CSA:** Thanks to all who continue to make payments on the 2015 stewardship campaign. Information on the new drive that begins in February will be in upcoming bulletins.



**HAPPY BIRTHDAY** to *John Mortimer* as he turns 90 next Saturday, January 23<sup>rd</sup>. Cards can be sent to him at 23 W. 5<sup>th</sup> St.

*Deacon David Carter* will also celebrate his birthday Saturday, January 23<sup>rd</sup>. He has spent time with us the last 2 summers and will be ordained a priest in June. If you would like to send him a card, his address is: c/o Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, 1553 E. Grandview Blvd., Erie, PA 16510.

**VIGIL CANDLES** at both St. Joseph and Mary's statues can be lit for your intentions. The offering is \$3/candle and money can be placed in the collection, put in the sacristy, or sent to the rectory (feel free to use the envelopes in the pews and mark "candle money").



**ST. JOSEPH PARISH Spaghetti Dinner** on February 14, 2016 from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Knights of Columbus. Saint Joseph Rosary Society will have a bake sale and gift basket raffle. Cost: Adults: \$6.00; Seniors/Students: \$5.00; Children 6-10: \$2.00; Children 5 & Under: Free.

**SERVERS FOR – January 23-24**

5:30 Sarah/Jacob Teeter  
7:30 Anna Campbell-Sowden/Robert Felmlee  
9:00 Ashley/Alex/Scott Finch  
11:30 Lilly Cicutella/Andrew Giancola

**LECTORS FOR – January 23-24**

5:30 Marcia Schumacher  
7:30 Kathy Plyler  
9:00 David Heinzer  
11:30 Megan Winkleman

**EUCARIST MINISTERS FOR –January 23-24**

5:30 Elizabeth Ames, Ellen Flickner, Kate Ostroske, Richard Stewart, Mary Wolfgang  
7:30 Debbie Wagner, Loretta Warcholik  
9:00 Bob/Rosalie Bablak, David Heinzer, Joseph/Donna Jones  
11:30 Mary Kay Berlin, Bill/Elaine Klapec, Mary Anne Oliver, Carol Sundo

**THE PEOPLE IN OUR PARISH:**

**OUR PRAYERS GO OUT TO FAMILIES & FRIENDS OF** *Linda Schwabenbauer* who died recently. May the gift of eternal life be hers.

**PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS** those who are sick, in nursing homes or hospitalized, as well as the men and women who serve us in the military both at home and abroad.

**LOST/FOUND:** A gold cross was found in Church during the Christmas season. Please call the rectory (677-3020) to identify.

**SPONSOR OF THE WEEK**

Our bulletin sponsor of the week is **EDWARD JONES, Donna J. Rapp and Michael D. Watson, Financial Advisors, located at 105 E. First St.** Please patronize our sponsors and let them know you appreciate their support. It helps defray the cost of our bulletins each week.

**A DONATION TO the 2<sup>nd</sup> Century Fund was made for Helen Eisenman** by Helen Guth.



**SERVANTS OF ST. STEPHEN:**

There will be a **Coordinators Meeting** Wednesday, January 20 at 10 a.m. at the Rectory. Please notify Connie at the rectory at 677-3020 if you are unable to attend.



**THE 2<sup>ND</sup> COLLECTION** this weekend will be to "Help Spread the Faith" which supports Faith Magazine and Catholic Communications. With your donations, it will make access to the important ideals of the Catholic faith on line & through television, radio, and print media more readily available. The Popes historic visit to the US stands out as a highlight this past year. Through FaithLife newspaper, Faith magazine, the diocesan Facebook page and its Twitter account, our Diocesan Communications Office was able to share the experiences of people from every corner of our diocese who were there in person.

Thank you in advance for your generosity as we work to keep people in the Erie Diocese inspired and informed. There is a gold envelope in your monthly packet for this collection.

## SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

**RELIGIOUS ED.** students have class TODAY, Sunday, January 17. Grades K-8 & 10 will meet from 9-11 a.m. at the school while those in 9<sup>th</sup> grade meet from 8:45 to 10:45 a.m. at OLHC.

Parents who have children preparing for First Penance must attend one of the meetings listed below. This requirement is made **mandatory** by the Erie Diocese. At least one parent from each family must come to either Our Lady Help of Christians Social Hall next Saturday, January 23 beginning at 11 a.m. or St. Stephen Social Hall (Church basement) on Wednesday, January 27 beginning at 7 p.m.

Our Retreat for Grades 4 and 5 will be held on Sunday, January 24 beginning with the 11:30 am Mass at St. Stephen Church. More details will be sent home with the students today.

**THE RECTORY OFFICE** will be closed tomorrow (18<sup>th</sup>) in observance of the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday.

**THE FOOD COLLECTION this weekend** will be taken up for St. Elizabeth Center. They can always use canned goods, peanut butter, crackers, pasta, spaghetti sauce, noodles, boxed meals or any other non-perishable items. Your items can be left in the blue bins provided at the entrances. Monetary donations are always appreciated and can be mailed to the center at 311 Emerald St.



**THE 22<sup>nd</sup> 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.

**MASS** at Oakwood Heights Thursday ((21<sup>st</sup>) at 10 a.m. All are welcome and encouraged to attend.

**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 month. 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.

**ST. VENANTIUS** will have a pot luck tureen dinner Sunday, January 31<sup>st</sup> at 4 p.m. in the church basement. Those attending are asked to bring your own table service and a well filled tureen to share.



**PA FOR HUMAN LIFE:** The March for Life is in Washington, D.C., is next Friday, January 22. Just a reminder that the bus will leave the Oil City K of C at 11:45 p.m. Thursday (21<sup>st</sup>) 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. Call Judy Anderton at 676-6288 with questions or more information.

## ST. STEPHEN SCHOOL NEWS

No school Monday, January 18 for students.

All are invited to a Mass at 1:45 p.m. at the school Friday, January 22<sup>nd</sup> in the gym.

SSS lottery tickets are currently on sale for February and March. The cost of the ticket is \$10. You can contact a school family or the office during normal business hours to purchase.

Catholic Schools Week will kick off January 31st at the 9 a.m. Mass where we will begin celebrating a week of activities for Catholic Schools Week.

See details and information on the upcoming Reverse Raffle elsewhere in the bulletin.



**ST. CECILA SING!** St. Cecilia is honored as the patron saint of musicians. Our Oil City Area Combined Choir will join St. Patrick's Adult Choir on Sunday January 31 at 4 PM for a Choir Fest to be held at St. Stephen Church. Refreshments will follow. A good-will offering will be taken up for St. Elizabeth Center. This event is being held as part of a national festival of sacred song sponsored by the National Association of Pastoral Musicians (NPM). Please come join us!

**LENTEN STUDY OPPORTUNITY** coming Monday, February 8 at 8:30 p.m. Fr. Matt Ruyechan will give the presentation. Each Monday during Lent, a chapter discussion on "Laudato Si" (On Care for our Common Home) with Sister Tina and Sister Marian. More info to follow.

**ENGAGEMENT ENCOUNTER** still has openings for its January 22nd through 24th weekend at St. Mark's Catholic Center in Erie. Prepare for your marriage with a weekend you'll never forget. For information or registration please call 814-824-1261 or by email at: [familylife@erieRCD.org](mailto:familylife@erieRCD.org) Remember, "A wedding is one day, marriage is for a lifetime". Space is limited; call today to secure your place.

**SPECIAL COLLECTION:** Note: letter from Bishop Persico: Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

During the last weeks of Advent, severe weather impacted states in the South and Midwest regions of our country. This has resulted in major flooding which will remain a problem over the next several weeks. With the onset of colder weather, the flooded areas may freeze, causing still further damage. The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) has asked us to take up a special collection on behalf of our brothers and sisters in the affected areas, as well as in areas which will see natural disasters in 2016. In the Diocese of Erie, this special collection will be taken the weekend of January 23-24. The funds collected in this one-time special appeal will be used to support the efforts of Catholic Charities USA, the official domestic relief agency of the Catholic Church in the USA, as they respond to immediate emergency needs and to long-term recovery, as well as the ongoing pastoral and reconstruction work of the USCCB. May I ask you to give generously to this special collection for our brothers and sisters in need in our own country, and to please remember them and those who aid them in your prayers.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+Lawrence T. Persico  
The Most Reverend Lawrence T. Persico,  
**(If using an envelope or writing a check, please mark "Flood Relief". Checks can be made to St. Stephen Church as one check will be sent to the Diocese.)**