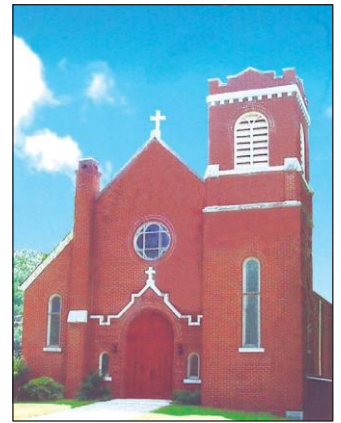


SAINT STEPHEN CHURCH
Oil City, PA

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.





St. Stephen Church

Oil City, PA

MASS SCHEDULE FOR THE WEEK

MONDAY	January 25th, The Conversion of St. Paul
7:00 AM	Margaret Gavin (Bernice Connelly)
TUESDAY	January 26th, Sts. Timothy & Titus
7:00 AM	Dan Way (Dot Monahan & Joyce Morgan)
WEDNESDAY	January 27th
7:00 AM	Helen Perrett (Mrs. Mary Lou Scottino)
THURSDAY	January 28th, St. Thomas Aquinas
7:00 AM	Jay Marie Cook (City of Oil City)
FRIDAY	January 29th
7:00 AM	Jim Heinzer (Herk Hynes)
SATURDAY	January 30th
7:00 AM	For Members of Our Parish Community
5:30 PM	(Vigil) Freda Fesenmyer (Robin Shirey)
SUNDAY	January 31, Fourth Ordinary Sunday
7:30 AM	Joseph & Julia Warcholik (Stan & Loretta Warcholik)
9:00 AM	Scott Thompson (Wife & Family)
10:00 AM	(St. Venantius) Rhonda Huber (Mother)
11:30 AM	Helen Donze (Ann Scopetti)

THIS WEEKS CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SUNDAY	January 24
	Special Collection for the South/Midwest Floods
11:30 a.m.	Religious Ed. Grades 4-5 – Mass and Retreat (Church and Social Hall)
TUESDAY	January 26
7:00 p.m.	RCIA – Social Center
WEDNESDAY	January 27
7:00 p.m.	Parent Meeting for First Penance – Social Center
SATURDAY	January 30
4:00 p.m.	Confessions – Church
5:30 p.m.	REVERSE RAFFLE & Casino Night – K of C

Points to ponder from Fr. Matt

The late Amy Winehouse had a hit single in her tune REHAB. In the last century this new methodology dealing with society's physical, psychological, ethical, moral, and social ills has been put into practice. We are always in rehab with God. It is a daily struggle to be attuned to God's will and our sometimes meager attempt to fulfill it.

Jesus encourages his dear ones to hold fast to him and find strength and completeness in him.

Time to think of our commitment to CATHOLIC SERVICE APPEAL. What can we pledge?? Can we offer a gift comparable to God's generosity to us??

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF JANUARY 25-31

MON: Acts 22:3-16/Mk 16:15-18
TUES:..... 2 Tm 1:1-9/Ti 1:1-5/Mk 3:31-35
WED:..... 2 Sm 7:4-17/Mk 4:1-20
THURS:..... 2 Sm 7:18-29/Mk 4:21-25
FRI: 2 Sm 11:1-17/Mk 4:26-34
SAT: 2 Sm 12:1-17/Mk 35-41
SUN:..... Jer 1:4-19/1 Cor 12:31—13:13

FAMILY PERSPECTIVE: In today's gospel Jesus was "praised by all" except at home in Nazareth where the "eyes of all were intently on him." Acceptance can be hard to find at home due to unreal EXPECTATIONS. Jesus challenges us to "proclaim liberty" to anyone "oppressed" or "captive" by our EXPECTATIONS.

MARRIAGE MOMENTS: Does a typical date night in your marriage start with, "What do you want to do tonight?" "I don't know. What do you want to do?" "I don't know..." Repeat. Try something besides a dinner and a movie. Google Making Love On A Budget for ideas.

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").



SPECIAL THANKS to all who helped decorate, undecorate and clean the Church during the Christmas season: Jacob Felmler, Mary and Chuck Davis, Frank Lutz, Teresa Felmler, Mike Morrison, Brandon Hutchinson, A.J. and Nick Howard, DeeEtte, Christa and Thomas Schneider, Anissa Weller, Chris, Josh and Jeanine Morgan and Bob and Gene Zacherl.

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

SERVERS FOR – JANUARY 30-31

5:30 Jenna Loll/Destiny Weiser
7:30 Hunter Lancaster/Parker Slagle
9:00 Noah/Joshua/Sam Puleo
11:30 Julia Serbati/Robert Wenner

LECTORS FOR – JANUARY 30-31

5:30 Sue Williams
7:30 Mike Horos
9:00 Students for Catholic Schools Week
11:30 Mark Heim

EUCHARIST MINISTERS FOR – JANUARY 30-31

5:30 Mareeta Durney, Deb Lutz, Mike Morrison, Barb Plummer, Susan Stewart
7:30 Cheryl Donze/Dan Karg
9:00 Bob/Jan McCall, Dan/Jackie Moltz, Ray Stiglitz
11:30 Tom Karg, Leon/Kathy Kulinski, Bob/Deb Schumacher

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 *Nathan Antonio Moreno*, son of Rafael and Esmeraldo (Rodrigues) Moreno who was baptized recently.

SPONSOR OF THE WEEK

We would like to thank *FAMOORE'S FAMILY RESTAURANT, INC., and James E. Monson, President*, for sponsoring an ad weekly in our bulletin.

SERVANTS OF ST. STEPHEN:



We are grateful to the Eucharistic Ministers who visit the homebound on Sunday or First Friday as well as those who take Communion and visit those in our nursing homes and TCU and Rehab. Thank you for taking the time to visit those who aren't able to get to church.

SPECIAL COLLECTION THIS



WEEKEND: As you read in Bishop Persico's letter in last week's bulletin, the US Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) has asked us to take up a *special*

collection on behalf of our brothers and sisters in the South and Midwest regions of our country that were affected recently by severe weather and major flooding. This one-time special appeal will be used to support the efforts of Catholic Charities USA, as they respond to immediate emergency needs and long-term recovery, as well as the ongoing pastoral and reconstruction work of USCCB.

*****Please Note: 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.**

CATHOLIC SERVICE APPEAL (CSA): Commitment weekend for our annual drive will be the weekend of February 6-7. Envelopes can be found in the pews. Feel free to take one home.

Special thanks to all who continue to make payments on the 2015 stewardship campaign.

THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



THE 22nd ANNUAL REVERSE RAFFLE and Casino Night will be held NEXT 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.

RELIGIOUS ED. NEWS: A retreat for Grades 4 and 5 is being held today, January 24th, beginning with the 11:30 a.m. Mass at St. Stephen Church. A provided lunch will follow. Parents need to return to the retreat at 2:45 p.m.

Parents who have children preparing for **First Penance** must attend a mandatory meeting THIS WEEK if you did not attend the meeting at Our Lady Help of Christian January 23rd. This requirement is made **mandatory** by the Erie Diocese. At least one parent from each family must attend. If you didn't attend the meeting at OLHC, you must attend at Stephen Social Hall (Church basement) on Wednesday, January 27 beginning at 7 p.m.

NOTE: Our Religious Ed program is in need of teacher for middle school. Substitutes are also needed. Please call Dianne Phillips at 677-3078 at OLHC if you can help.

RCIA will meet Tuesday (26th) at 7 p.m. in the Social Center.



ST. VENANTIUS will have a pot luck tureen dinner next Sunday, January 31st 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.

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.

"On Care for our Common Home" with Father Matt Ruyechan: An Introduction to Pope Francis' document "Laudato Si", will be given at St. Stephen Social Center on Monday, February 8 from 6:30-8:00 p.m. by Father Matt Ruyechan.

There will be a presentation each Monday night during Lent followed by a book discussion on each of the 6 chapters with Sister Tina and Sister Marion (OR, you may wish to form your own discussion group. The introduction (& 6 chapters can be downloaded on <http://w2.vatican.va/>).

CONTEMPLATIVE PRAYER SERIES: An Introduction to **Contemplative Prayer Series** will be given on **Saturdays, (Feb. 6, March 5, April 2, and May 7)** from 9 AM - 3 PM at Our Lady of Clarion Conference Center, Immaculate Conception Parish, Clarion. Free will offering. Bring a bag lunch. Sister Tina Geiger, RSM will be using the Program series by Fr. Thomas Keating, OSCO. Come, discover a deeper awareness of God's presence and action in our lives. All are welcome.

ST. STEPHEN SCHOOL NEWS

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



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!



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.

PREPARING FOR REMARRIAGE IN THE CHURCH?

NOVA is a one-day marriage preparation program specifically designed for couples free to remarry in the Catholic Church. Topics include adjusting to remarriage, blending families, legal issues and others. Pre-registration is required. Call the Family Life Office at 814-824-1261 or 800-374-3723 ext. 261 to register. The next NOVA is scheduled for Saturday, March 5th in Erie.

CHILD PROTECTION POLICIES AND PROCEEDURES:

The Diocese of Erie, along with all diocese of the United States, has policies and procedures in place to address the national problem of child abuse and to aid in creating safe environments. The diocese is committed to on-going screening and training of paid or volunteer persons who have regular contact with our children and youth under the age of 19. It is committed to the yearly in-servicing and training of our children, youth and parents regarding touching-safety and safe environment. To see what the Diocese of Erie is doing to help create safe environments, check out the website at <http://www.eriecd.org/protectyouth.htm>.



A YEAR OF GRACE: Seeing the great need for mercy and healing in the world, Pope Francis called for this Year of Mercy – a special period, also known as a Holy Year or Jubilee Year, for the Catholic Church. It is a time for Churches across the world to take this year to focus on forgiveness and healing in a special way. He has asked us “to be a witness of mercy” by reflecting on and practicing the spiritual and corporal works of mercy: Feed the hungry; give drink to the thirsty; clothe the naked; shelter the homeless; visit the sick; Visit the imprisoned; bury the dead. This Jubilee we should make a concerted effort to perform these beautiful Works of Mercy.

PRAY THE ROSARY Tuesday evenings at 7:00 p.m. at the Knights of Columbus. All are welcome to.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

First Penance	Saturday, February 13
First Communion	Saturday, May 7