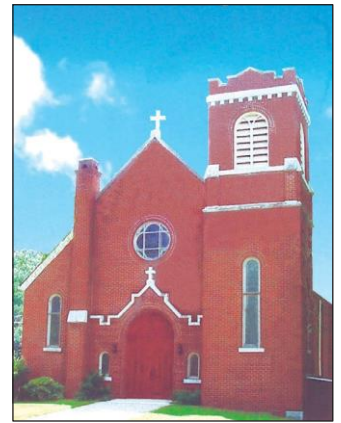


SAINT STEPHEN CHURCH
Oil City, PA

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 February 1
7:00 AM Mike & Edna Hubauer (Marion English & Family)

TUESDAY February 2, The Presentation of the Lord
7:00 AM Carl & Lillian Gayetty (Family)

WEDNESDAY February 3, St. Blaise
7:00 AM Joseph Tatara (Bob & Jan)

THURSDAY February 4
7:00 AM Chuck Stephenson (Family)

FRIDAY February 5, St. Agatha
7:00 AM For Members of Our Parish Community

SATURDAY February 6, St. Paul Miki & Companions
7:00 AM Dr. Tod Schneider (Family)
5:30 PM (Vigil) Bert Melat (Nancy Dengel)

SUNDAY February 7, 5th Ordinary Sunday
7:30 AM Betsy Schneider (Family)
9:00 AM Robert P. Wheeler (Sue Williams)
10:00 AM (St. Venantius) Wayne Quimby (Uncle John & Sandy)
11:30 AM Mike Sobina (Jean Black, Tammy, Nathan, Sam & Justin Wigreen)

THIS WEEKS CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SUNDAY January 31
Catholic Schools Week
8:45-10:45 a.m. Rel. Ed. (Gr. 9) – OLHC
9-11 a.m. Rel. Ed. (P/K-8 & 10) – School
4:00 p.m. Pot Luck Dinner – St. Venantius
4:00 p.m. St. Cecelia Sing – Church

MONDAY February 1
1:15 p.m. Catholic Schools Week Mass-VC

TUESDAY February 2
7:00 p.m. RCIA – Social Center

FRIDAY February 5
7:30-9 a.m. Adoration – Chapel

First Friday Communion Calls Throughout the Morning

SATURDAY February 6
9 a.m.-3 p.m. Contemplative Prayer-Clarion
10:00 a.m. Baptism Class – St. Patrick-Franklin
4:00 p.m. Confession - Church

Points to ponder from Fr. Matt

What attracts us to the prophetic word of God? God offers us an alternative to see reality for what it is. Lent is approaching. We need to clear our minds and consider what is most important in life. Is it the politicians who we witness changing their minds on issues like a revolving door??? Will we settle for the lowest common denominator to live a "happy" life??? Will we embrace the ALTERNATIVES that the present day prophets offer??? What about Pope Francis and his Year of Mercy???

Once again I ask you to participate in pledging for the **Catholic Service Appeal**. The programs that the Diocese offer are in place in our area of Oil City. The \$\$\$ over and above help pay the parish bills and projects. The CSA compels us to look at those in need and the needs of our parish family. They are one in the same. I too will be pledging both at St. Stephen and St. Venantius. I wouldn't ask you to do anything I wouldn't do myself. If we do this in love we will experience many blessings.


READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF JAN. 31 TO FEB. 7TH

- MON: 2 Sm 15:13-30; 16:5-13/Mk 5:1-20
- TUES: Lk 2:22-40/Lk 2:22-40
- WED: 2 Sm 24:2-17/Mk 6:1-6
- THURS: 1 Kgs 2:1-12/Mk 6:7-13
- FRI: Sir 47:2-11/Mk 6:14-19
- SAT: 1 Kgs 3:4-13/Mk 6:30-34
- SUN: Is 6:1-8/1 Cor 15:1-11/Lk 5:1-11

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.

ROSARY/SWEET SUNDAY: All are invited to join others in praying the rosary at 8:30 a.m. next Sunday (February 7th) prior to the 9 a.m. Mass. The Rosary Society is sponsoring refreshments and fellowship following the Mass in the Social Center. All are welcome. NOTE: Just a reminder that we DO NOT HAVE Sweet Sunday during Lent which begins February 10th.

SCOUT SUNDAY: Next Sunday (7th) at the 9 a.m. Mass, we welcome the Cub Scout and Boy Scout Troops as they recognize the scouts, leaders and the scouting program.

 **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 – FEBRUARY 6-7

- 5:30 Matthew/Ryan/Faith Ames
- 7:30 Chandler Chase/Parker Slagle
- 9:00 Ashley/Haley Barletta
- 11:30 Daniel/Matthew McQuaide

LECTORS FOR – FEBRUARY 6-7

- 5:30 Mareeta Durney
- 7:30 Jodi Zacherl
- 9:00 Tracy Lander
- 11:30 Frank Shepard

EUCCHARIST MINISTERS FOR – FEBRUARY 6-7

- 5:30 Elizabeth Ames, Ellen Flickner, Kay Hopwood, Maggie McMahon, Barb Plummer
- 7:30 Cheryl Donze, Kathy Stephens
- 9:00 Bob/Rosalie Bablak, Max Dudzic, Dawn Salata, Mary Vinopal
- 11:30 Mary Chapman, Donna Goodman, Sandra Kerchner, Kate Ostroske, Karen Shepard

THE PEOPLE IN OUR PARISH:

SINCERE SYMPATHY is offered to the family and friends of *Eileen A. Drelick*. 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 *Asher August Drelick* who was baptized January 24. **ANNIVERSARY WISHES** to *Robert and Ramona Carrow* as they celebrate 60 years of marriage Thursday, February 4th.

SPONSOR OF THE WEEK

We would like to thank **ROGER S. VIRGILE MD, Northwest Eye Associates, 312 13th St., Franklin**, for sponsoring an ad weekly in our bulletin.

SERVANTS OF ST. STEPHEN:



For prayer requests, please call Mary Firster at 676-1219. Please note her contact information is printed on the front of the bulletin each week for your convenience.



CATHOLIC SERVICE APPEAL (CSA): Commitment weekend for our annual stewardship drive will be next weekend February 6-7. The theme this year is "Be Lights of Hope through Giving". Hopefully everyone will take time to reflect upon helping us reach our goal. Envelopes are provided in the pews or at the rectory and can be returned next weekend in the collection. No pledge is too small or too large. If everyone participates we can reach our goal!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

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

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



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 TODAY, 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!

FIRST FRIDAY is this week. Join us for Mass in the Reed St. Chapel at 7 a.m. followed by Adoration until 9 a.m. Father Matt and Eucharistic Ministers will visit and take Communion to the homebound throughout the morning. Please call the rectory (677-3020) if you know someone who needs a visit.



ST. VENANTIUS will have a pot luck tureen dinner TODAY 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.

RELIGIOUS ED. PROGRAM is in need of a substitute teacher Please call Dianne Phillips at 677-3078 at Our Lady Help of Christian office if you can help.

9th Grade students have class 8:45-10:45 a.m. today at OLHC. Students in P/K-8 & Gr. 10 have class from 9-11 a.m. at the school.



ATTENTION EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS: All Eucharistic Ministers who take communion to the homebound on Sundays or are on the sub list are asked to attend a brief mandatory meeting Sunday, Feb. 7th in the Social Center after the 11:30 a.m. Mass.. It has been a long time since we have been together as a group. The purpose of the meeting is to review procedures that need to be followed. Any questions you may have will also be answered. Please RSVP to Tina 676-0443. Those unable to attend will be asked to meet with Fr. Matt.

THE NEXT BAPTISMAL CLASS in our area will be held at St. Patrick's Staff Room of Dion Auditorium at 10 a.m. **NEXT 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.



"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/>.

THE FEAST OF ST. BLAISE is Wednesday, February 3rd. We will be blessing throats at all Masses next weekend (February 6th and 7th).

ST. STEPHEN SCHOOL NEWS

We begin our week during the 9 a.m. Mass this weekend. We appreciate our students and their families who participate in the Mass and are grateful for their presence. Share the enthusiasm as we focus on different aspects of Catholic Education.

Monday: "Celebrating our Faith" ~ students will travel to VC and join VC and St. Patrick students for a day of games, relays, a program by illusionist Cliff Hopkins, and will celebrate Mass at 1:15 p.m. in the gym. All families are invited to attend the Mass. Students can wear jeans, sneakers and shirts representing their schools colors.

Tuesday: "Celebrating Our School Communities" ~ All students will make Valentine cards with their Guardian Angels to be distributed to Golden Living residents.

Wednesday: "Celebrating Our Students/Staff" ~ Students will enjoy a dance session at 1:30 p.m. with Mrs. Hutchinson. Teachers will enjoy a special luncheon.

Thursday: "Celebrating our Families" ~ "Crazy" Day – students can wear crazy hats, socks, or tie with uniforms. They will invite a guest to eat lunch with them today. Sr. Tina and Sr. Marian will give a presentation.

Friday: "Celebrating Service ~ Students can dress in their favorite team colors to celebrate "Soup-er" Bowl Day. All students should bring in a can of soup for donation to St. Elizabeth Center. They will also enjoy a movie in the afternoon.



CONTEMPLATIVE PRAYER: 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.** Bring Bag lunch. Free will offering. 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.

NOVA is a one-day marriage preparation program for couples free to remarry in the Catholic Church. Topics include adjustments, blending families, legal issues and others. Contact the Family Life Office at 814-824-1261 or by email at: familylife@erieRCD.org to register. Offered only four times per year, the next NOVA is scheduled for Saturday, March 5th in Erie. Couples preparing for convalidation are encouraged to apply



THE K OF C Annual Soup Fest will be held Saturday, February 20 at 6:30 p.m. Cost is \$8 per person and includes soup, salad and rolls. To make reservations, call 677-2081 after 4 p.m. or sign up at the club downstairs. Members and guests are welcome. Proceeds benefit the K of C Children's Christmas party.

A CASINO TRIP: Join us in a trip to Seneca Allegany Casino on Thursday, March 10, 2016. All proceeds benefit St. Patrick and St. Stephen Schools. Depart Franklin at 8:00 a.m. from St. Patrick Church Parking lot. Depart Oil City at 8:30 a.m. from Oil City Knights of Columbus. Depart casino: 5:00 p.m. Cost is \$30.00 with a bonus given at casino of \$20.00 slot play as well as \$5.00 food - Need photo ID. Payment will confirm seat. Please contact Jan Bowen at 432-7658 for further information or to sign up. Thank you for your continued support of Catholic Education.