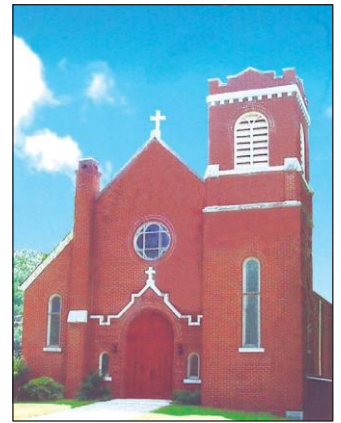


SAINT STEPHEN CHURCH
Oil City, PA

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 |

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.

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





St. Stephen Church

Oil City, PA

MASS SCHEDULE FOR THE WEEK

MONDAY February 8
7:00 AM For the Poor Souls in Purgatory

TUESDAY February 9
7:00 AM Dan Lander (The Allio Family)

WEDNESDAY February 10, Ash Wednesday
7:00 AM (Church) Mary Pilewski (Servers for Funeral Dinners)
12:10 PM (Church) Ray Konetsky (Sue Williams)
1:45 PM (School) Rizzone/Dolecki Families (Phyllis & Lucy Dolecki)
7:00 PM (Church) Dan Way (The Deibert Family)

THURSDAY February 11
7:00 AM Marvin Gayetty (Family)
10:30 AM (Golden Living) Elsie Powers (Family)

FRIDAY February 12
7:00 AM For Members of Our Parish Community
12:10 PM (Church) Sam Venturella (K of C #365)

SATURDAY February 13
7:00 AM Daniel Daubenspeck (Family)
5:30 PM (Vigil) Helen Eisenman (John/Missy Krensavage)

SUNDAY February 14, First Sunday of Lent
7:30 AM Jason Kushner (Family)
9:00 AM Jane Daugherty (Margaret Daugherty & Family)
10:00 AM (St. Venantius) Steve & Martha Goreczny (Uncle John & Sandy)
11:30 AM Kathleen McQuaide (Ann Scopetti)

THIS WEEKS CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SUNDAY February 7
2016 Catholic Service Appeal Begins
8:30 a.m. Rosary
Boy Scouts/Cub Scouts at 9 a.m. Mass
Sweet Sunday – After 9 a.m. Mass – Social Center
12:30 p.m. **Eucharistic Min. Mtg.-Social Center**

MONDAY February 8
1:30 p.m. Early Dismissal - School
6:30-8 p.m. "On Care for our Common Home" – Social Center

TUESDAY February 9
7:00 p.m. RCIA – Social Center

WEDNESDAY February 10
Ash Wednesday – see Mass Schedule
9:00 a.m. Stations/Ashes – St. Venantius

THURSDAY February 11
7:00 p.m. Rosary Society Mtg.-Social Center

FRIDAY February 12
11 am-1:30 pm Lenten Lunches – Social Center
5-6:45 p.m. All You Can Eat Fish Fry - VC
7:00 p.m. Stations - Church

SATURDAY February 13
1:00 p.m. First Penance - Church
4:00 p.m. Confession - Church

Points to ponder from Fr. Matt

All of our callings are unique, specific to time, circumstance, and personality. However there are three aspects that are rudimentary. **REALIZATION** –we become aware of God as all good, all loving, and all giving. **REPENTANCE** –We look to God for healing, holiness, and wholeness. **READINESS** –We are ready to be and to do all that our vocation requires.

CATHOLIC SERVICE APPEAL Please place your pledge in the collection basket today using the CSA envelope. Thank you for your generosity

Lent begins Wednesday. Please avail yourself to the various devotions and gatherings that are being provided for you. Let’s make it a fruitful Lent.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF FEBRUARY 8-14

- MON: 1 Kgs 8:1-13/Mk 6:53-56
- TUES: 1 Kgs 8:22-30/Mk 7:1-13
- WED: JI 2:12-18/2 Cor 5:30—6:2/Mt 6:1-18
- THURS: Dt 30:15-20/Lk 9:22-25
- FRI: Is 58:1-9/Mt 9:14-15
- SAT: Is 58:9-14/Lk 5:27-32
- SUN: Dt 26:4-10/Rom 10:8-13/Lk 4:1-13

FAMILY PERSPECTIVE: In today’s gospel Jesus asked Simon to start by “going a short distance.” Later he asked Simon to “go into deeper water.” The first step toward reconciliation is usually a “short distance” which gives us the courage to further “into deeper water.” Reconciliation starts with the first short step!

ROSARY/SWEET SUNDAY: All are invited to join others in praying the rosary at 8:30 a.m. TODAY, 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: TODAY (February 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.

CATHOLIC HEART WORKCAMP will again be held in the Oil City are the week of July 5th through 8th, 2016. If you need work done at your home, you can pick up an application at the St. Elizabeth Center (311 Emerald St.) or Lydia’s Stitches (211 Seneca St.). Applications should be returned by April 10th.

ST. ELIZABETH CENTER is looking for gently used clothing and small household appliances for their thrift store. Donations may be dropped off Monday & Wednesday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and Saturday from 9 a.m. to noon. Thrift store hours are Monday & Wednesday 10 a.m.-2 p.m. and Saturday 9 a.m. to noon. They are located at 311 Emerald St. and can be reached at 677-0203.

ASH WEDNESDAY (10th): No one scheduled to be Altar Servers or Eucharistic Ministers. Please offer to help at the Mass you are attending.

LECTORS: 7 a.m.: Richard McIntire 12:10 p.m.: Kathy Plyler
7 p.m.: Evelyn Wheeler

SERVERS FOR – FEBRUARY 13-14

- 5:30 Gavin Empson/Thomas Fink
- 7:30 Robert Felmler/Hunter Lancaster
- 9:00 Molly Mietus/Taylor Readmond-Mietus
- 11:30 Sadie/Ryan Kalamajka

LECTORS FOR – FEBRUARY 13-14

- 5:30 Marcia Schumacher 9:00 Sue Williams
- 7:30 Richard McIntire 11:30 Cindy Eckert

EUCHARIST MINISTERS FOR – FEBRUARY 13-14

- 5:30 Bob/Jan McCall, Bob/Deb Schumacher, Rick Stewart
- 7:30 Richard McIntire, Debbie Wagner
- 9:00 Joseph/Donna Jones, Tom McNellie, Deb Mitchell, Sue Williams
- 11:30 Mary Kay Berlin, Bill/Elaine Klapec, Mary Anne Oliver, Carol Sundo

THE PEOPLE IN OUR PARISH:

SINCERE SYMPATHY is offered to the family and friends of *Mabel Gammello, Rod Beichner, Dean Watson & Mary Rena Morrison*. May they 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.

SPONSOR OF THE WEEK

We would like to thank **TOMORROWS BRIDAL FINERY, located at 214 Center St., and Leslie Marshall** for sponsoring an ad weekly in our bulletin.

A DONATION to the School was made for Mabel Gammello by The Rehberg Family.



CATHOLIC SERVICE APPEAL (CSA): This weekend is Commitment weekend for our annual stewardship drive will be this 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 of \$ 82,000 at St. Stephen Church and \$5,000 at St. Venantius. 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! Any amount received over our goal remains in our parish.

DO YOU RECEIVE FAITH MAGAZINE? Faith magazine is published every other month and mailed directly to registered parishioners. A new issue is coming out soon. If you don’t receive a copy, call the rectory to be sure you’re on the mailing list. Sometimes a change of address or a name change is not reported to the Office of Communications and the U.S. Postal Service will not forward the magazine. Questions may be directed to Brenda Williams, circulation manager, at 800-374-3723, ext. 161, or to bwilliams@ErieRCD.org.

THE NEXT BAPTISMAL CLASS in our area will be held Saturday, March 5th at 10 a.m. in the Social Center. Call 677-3020 to register.

FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

THE FEAST OF ST. BLAISE was February 3rd. We will be **blessing throats at all Masses this weekend.**



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

RCIA meets Tuesday, February 9th at 7 p.m. in the Social Center. Next week our candidates will travel to the Cathedral in Erie for the Rite of Election. Please continue to keep them and their sponsors in your prayers as they prepare for Easter.

LENTEN OPPORTUNITIES

LENT begins with Ash Wednesday this week (10th). Ashes will be distributed at all Masses: 7 a.m., 12:10 p.m. and 7 p.m. at Church and 1:45 p.m. at the school. They will also be distributed at St. Venantius after the Stations of the Cross at 9 a.m.

Ash Wednesday and all Fridays in Lent (including Good Friday) are days of abstinence from meat for those 14 years of age and older. On these days fasting for those 18-58 inclusive (one full meal and two smaller meals sufficient to maintain strength of one's needs) is permitted. Eating between meals is not permitted, but liquids including milk and fruit juices are allowed. When health or work is seriously affected, the law does not oblige.

Daily Mass is offered Monday-Saturday at 8 a.m. in the Reed Street Chapel and at 12:10 p.m. Monday, Wednesday and Friday during Lent at the Church.

Stations of the Cross will be offered Wednesday's at 9 a.m. at St. Venantius and on Friday evening's beginning at 7 p.m. at St. Stephen Church.

Rice bowls will be available at church entrances. Take one home as a Lenten practice and return at the end of the Lenten season.

Lenten Lunches will again be offered each Friday during Lent (except Good Friday) from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in the Social Center. Plan to attend 12:10 p.m. Mass then enjoy lunch downstairs. The menu includes a variety of sandwiches, soup, salad and dessert as well as hot/cold beverages. All donations (food or monetary) are appreciated. Proceeds benefit St. Stephen School and the St. Elizabeth Center. Call Evelyn Wheeler at 673-6392 if you can help. Take out will be available.

"All you can eat" Lenten Fish dinners will once again be held every Friday during Lent except Good Friday at Venango Catholic. Dinners served from 5-6:45 p.m. Take outs available. Cost \$10.50/adults; \$10/seniors; \$8/students under 12; preschool/\$4; pizza/\$3.00. Proceeds benefit the students at Venango Catholic.

A **MASS** at Golden Living will be said Thursday, February 11th at 10:30 a.m. All are welcome and encouraged to attend.

THE ROSARY SOCIETY will meet Thursday, February 11th at 7 p.m. for rosary, refreshments and a business meeting.

FIRST PENANCE will be celebrated next Saturday at 1 p.m. here at St. Stephen's. Students should arrive by 12:45 p.m. to Church.

ST. STEPHEN SCHOOL NEWS

Students will be dismissed at 1:30 p.m. Monday, (8th). No school for students next Friday (12th).

Our Varsity boy's team will host a tourney next weekend.

There will be an **OPEN HOUSE** for prospective families of children from Preschool through eighth grade on Tuesday, February 23, from 9:30 – 11:00 a.m. Tours of the classrooms will be given and an opportunity to speak to parents and administration will be available. Contact the school for more information 677-3035.

REGISTRATION for the 2016-17 school year for all grades (P/K-8) will be held March 8 from 9-11 a.m. and from 12-2:30 p.m. Families should report to the school at the designated times. The school nurse will assist parents in completing health histories. Representatives from the Blind Assoc. will conduct eye screening for children on registration day. Parents should bring: Immunization records; birth certificate (for kindergarten child must be 5 before Aug. 1, 2016); Birth dates or other children in the family; baptismal certificate (if not baptized at St. Stephen's); child's Social Security number and baby book for health history.

There will be a \$75 per family registration fee which will be applied to the 2016-17 tuition.

Registrations for all other grades will also be taken on March 8. These parents should bring their child's most recent grades, standardized test scores, and immunization records.

"On Care for our Common Home" with Father Matt Ruyechan: An Introduction to Pope Francis' document "Laudato Si", will be given in the Social Center tomorrow, 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/>.



ST. JOSEPH PARISH Spaghetti Dinner will be held next Sunday, February 14, from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Knights of Columbus. The 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.

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.



THE K OF C Annual Soup Fest will be held Saturday, February 20 at 6:30 p.m. Cost is \$8/person and includes soup, salad and rolls. For 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** to Seneca Allegany Casino Thursday, March 10. Cost is \$30 with a bonus given at casino of \$20 slot play & \$5 food. Need photo ID. Payment confirms seat. Call Jan Bowen (432-7658) to sign up. More information next week.