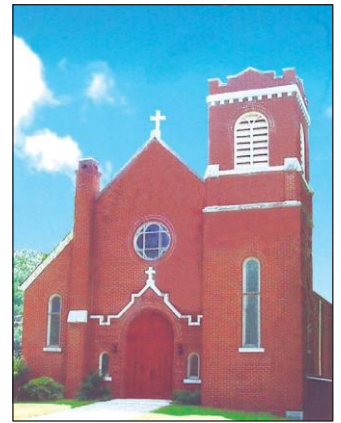


SAINT STEPHEN CHURCH
Oil City, PA

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	February 15
7:00 AM	Ann Cangemi (Family)
12:10 PM	(Church) Sam Leta (Pauline Leta)
TUESDAY	February 16
7:00 AM	John & Dorothy Brzuz (Children/Grandchildren)
WEDNESDAY	February 17
7:00 AM	For the Poor Souls in Purgatory
12:10 PM	(Church) Cole McMahon (Mom/Dad/Logan)
THURSDAY	February 18
7:00 AM	Chuck & Hazel (Family)
10:00 AM	(Oakwood) Helen Perrett (Mary Lou Scottino)
FRIDAY	February 19
7:00 AM	M/M Charles I. May (Karen May)
12:10 PM	(Church) Don Lillard (Family)
SATURDAY	February 20
7:00 AM	For Members of Our Parish Community
5:30 PM	(Vigil) Eugene Hartle (Joyce)
SUNDAY	February 21, 2nd Sunday of Lent
7:30 AM	M/M Charles Allio (Tom/Debbie Perrine)
9:00 AM	Bob Fletcher (Ray & Linda Stiglitz)
10:00 AM	(St. Venantius) Helen & Joe Cavanaugh
	(George & Helen Ann)
11:30 AM	Andrew Drelick (Susie/Dave Eperthener)

THIS WEEKS CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SUNDAY	February 14
	Happy Valentine's Day!
	RCIA to the Cathedral in Erie for Rite of Election
8:45-10:45	Rel. Ed. (Gr. 9) – OLHC
9-11 a.m.	Rel. Ed. (P/K-8 & 10) - School
11:30-1 p.m.	Spaghetti Dinner – K of C
MONDAY	February 15
	President's Day Observed
	School & Rectory Closed
6:30-8 p.m.	Lenten Series-OLHC
TUESDAY	February 16
7:00 p.m.	RCIA – Social Center
WEDNESDAY	February 17
9:00 a.m.	Stations – St. Venantius
6:15 p.m.	Home & School-School
7:00 p.m.	School Board - School
FRIDAY	February 19
11:00-1:30 p.m.	Lenten Lunches – Social Center
5:00-6:45 p.m.	Fish Fry - VCHS
7:00 p.m.	Stations – St. Stephen Church
SATURDAY	February 20
4:00 p.m.	Confessions – Church
6:30 p.m.	Soup Fest (Members/Guests)-K of C

Points to ponder from Fr. Matt

Lent is a time of rebirth and renewal. It is a time for rediscovering our relationship with God. Sometimes our human relationships are lost and forgotten. Now is the time to repair and to deepen with the Divine Source our relationship with all God's creatures.

Don't forget to pledge to the Catholic Service Appeal
Thank you.

Take time to participate in our communal Lenten devotions.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF FEBRUARY 15-21

- MON: Lv 19:1-18/Mt 25:31-46
- TUES:..... Is 55:10-11/Mt 6:7-15
- WED:..... Jon 3:1-10/Lk 11:29-32
- THURS:..... Est C:12:14-25/Mt 7:7-12
- FRI: Ez 18:21-28/Mt 5:20-26
- SAT: Dt 26:16-19/Mt 5:43-48
- SUN:..... Gn 15:5-18/Phil 3:17—4:1

FAMILY PERSPECTIVE: First Sunday of Lent Jesus "was led by the Spirit in the wilderness." What is the wilderness in your life to which the Holy Spirit is leading you this Lent? Perhaps there are uncharted areas in your marriage or family relationships. Spend this Lent in your "wilderness" with God work. Where is the Spirit leading you this Lent?



MARRIAGE MOMENTS: Valentine's Day is February 14 but its spirit can be celebrated any day.

Repeat your vows to each other today, "I _____, again take you, _____, to be my wife/husband. I promise to be true to you in good times and in bad, in sickness and in health. I will love you and honor you all the days of my life." Bonus points if you memorize it.

CONTEMPLATIVE PRAYER: An Introduction to **Contemplative Prayer Series** will be given on **Saturdays, (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.

ATTENTION BULLETIN SPONSORS: We are most grateful to all the business's that advertise on our bulletin making it furnished to our parish without charge. Ron, a representative from Diocesan Publications, will be in our area this week and will be making calls on current customers but also looking for new sponsors. Please call the rectory at 677-3020 if you are interested in advertising on the back of our bulletin.

SERVERS FOR – February 20-21

- 5:30 Jenna Loll/Destiny Weiser
- 7:30 Chandler Chase/Parker Slagle
- 9:00 Noah/Sam/Joshua Puleo
- 11:30 Lilly Cicatella, Padraig/Ailish McGrail

LECTORS FOR – February 20-21

- 5:30 Deb Lutz 9:00 Cindy Urban
- 7:30 Mike Horos 11:30 Leon Kulinski

EUCHARIST MINISTERS FOR – February 20-21

- 5:30 Mareeta Durney, Ellen Flickner, Kay Hopwood, Deb Lutz, Maggie McMahon
- 7:30 Cheryl Donze/Loretta Warcholik
- 9:00 Bob/Rosalie Bablak, Max Dudzic, Tom McNellie, Ray Stiglitz
- 11:30 Donna Goodman, Tom Karg, Sandra Kerchner, Leon/Kathy Kulinski

THE PEOPLE IN OUR PARISH:

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 **STUBLER DRIVE-THRU BEVERAGES, 802 E. 2nd St.**, for sponsoring an ad weekly in our bulletin.

A DONATION TO the School was made for Mrs. Eileen

Drelick from: Helen Guth, Patricia Dilley, and Jon & Sandra Berg.



CATHOLIC SERVICE APPEAL (CSA) Our 2016 Appeal is off to a great start. We encourage EVERYONE in the parish to participate (no matter how big/small) by dropping your pledge in the collection or mail/bring to the rectory. Extra envelopes can be found in the pews or at the rectory during normal business hours. Our overall goal at St. Stephen is \$82,000 and for St. Venantius, \$5,000.

MASS INTENTIONS: If you would like to schedule a Mass for 2016, please call Connie for St. Stephen's (677-3020) or Jenny for St. Venantius (677-4230). The stipend for a Mass is \$10.



CATHOLIC HEART WORKCAMP will again be held in the Oil City area the week of July 5th through 8th, 2016. Their mission is to share the love of Jesus by beautifying homes for the elderly, disabled and homeowners in need of repairs. If you need work done at your home (must own), 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.

DO YOU RECEIVE FAITH MAGAZINE? Faith magazine is published every other month and mailed directly to registered parishioners. A new issue was recently mailed. 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.

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT



RITE OF SENDING: Today our parish sends those seeking the Sacraments of Initiation at Easter to meet with the Bishop at a ceremony at St. Peter Cathedral in Erie, known as the Rite of Election. In this ceremony, the Bishop accepts their intention to complete their preparation during Lent. Today as we “send” them with our prayers and support we ask you keep them in your prayers as they prepare to receive the Sacraments at Easter.

PRESIDENT’S DAY, a day to celebrate all U.S. Presidents past and present, is observed Monday, February 15th. The Diocese and our Rectory Office will be closed that day.

RCIA meets Tuesday, February 16 at 7 p.m. in the Social Center.

LENTEN LUNCHESES 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.

OUR FOOD COLLECTION next weekend will be for the St. Elizabeth Center. Please leave your donations in the blue bins provided at the entrances. Thank you in advance for your support and contributions.

They also are 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.

THE NEXT BAPTISAL CLASS in our area will be Saturday, March 5th at 10 a.m. in the Social Center for parents planning a Baptism in the next few months. We ask all first time parents and sponsors (if possible) and those who have not attended in the last 3 years to attend. No need to wait until the baby is born! Please call 677-3020 to register.

MASS at Oakwood Heights Thursday (18th) at 10 a.m. All are welcome and encouraged to attend.



ST. JOSEPH PARISH Spaghetti Dinner will be held TODAY, Sunday, February 14, from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the K of C. 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.

LENTEN OPPORTUNITIES Daily Mass: is offered Monday-Saturday at 7 a.m. in the Reed St. Chapel and at 12:10 p.m. Monday, Wednesday and Friday during Lent at Church. **Stations of the Cross** at St. Stephen’s is Friday at 7 p.m. and Wednesday at 9 a.m. at St. Venantius.

LENTEN SERIES: There will be a presentation each Monday night 6:30-8 p.m. at OLHC Social Center during Lent followed by a book discussion on Chapters 1-6 of “Laudato Si” with Sister Tina and Sister Marion The introduction (& 6 chapters) can be downloaded on <http://w2.vatican.va/>. All are welcome.

ST. STEPHEN SCHOOL NEWS

Special thanks to all who worked or supported the Reverse Raffle and Casino Night at the K of C January 30th.

Thanks to all who participated in Catholic Schools Week! We are grateful to all who support our Catholic schools throughout the year and hope you continue to promote your family, friends and neighbors to Catholic education.

No School for student’s tomorrow (15th).

There will be a Home & School meeting Wednesday (17th) at 6:15 p.m. followed by a School Board at 7 p.m.

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.

The annual **GAS RAFFLE**, sponsored by Home & School, is currently underway. Grand prize is \$500 and the winner will have a choice of a \$500 gas card from Kwik Fill or \$500 cash. Cost is \$3/each or 4/\$10. The winner will be drawn at the Spaghetti Dinner March 20th at the school.

VENANGO CATHOLIC NEWS



“All you can eat” Lenten Fish dinners will once again be held every Friday during Lent except Good Friday at Venango Catholic. Menu includes baked or fried fish, baked potato or French fries, coleslaw, beverages and dessert. 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.



THE K OF C Annual Soup Fest will be held next Sat., 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.

CASINO BUS TRIP: Join others on a trip to Seneca Allegany Casino Thursday, March 10. All proceeds benefit St. Patrick and St. Stephen Schools. Bus departs Franklin at 8 a.m. from St. Patrick Church Parking lot and from Oil City at 8:30 a.m. from Oil City Knights of Columbus. Departs casino at 5 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.