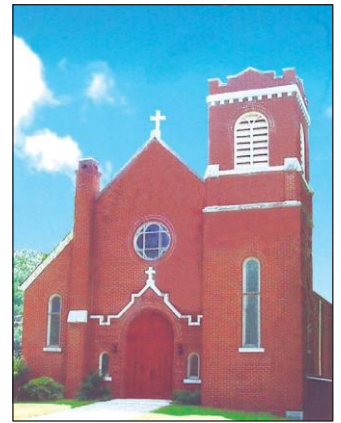


SAINT STEPHEN CHURCH
Oil City, PA

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

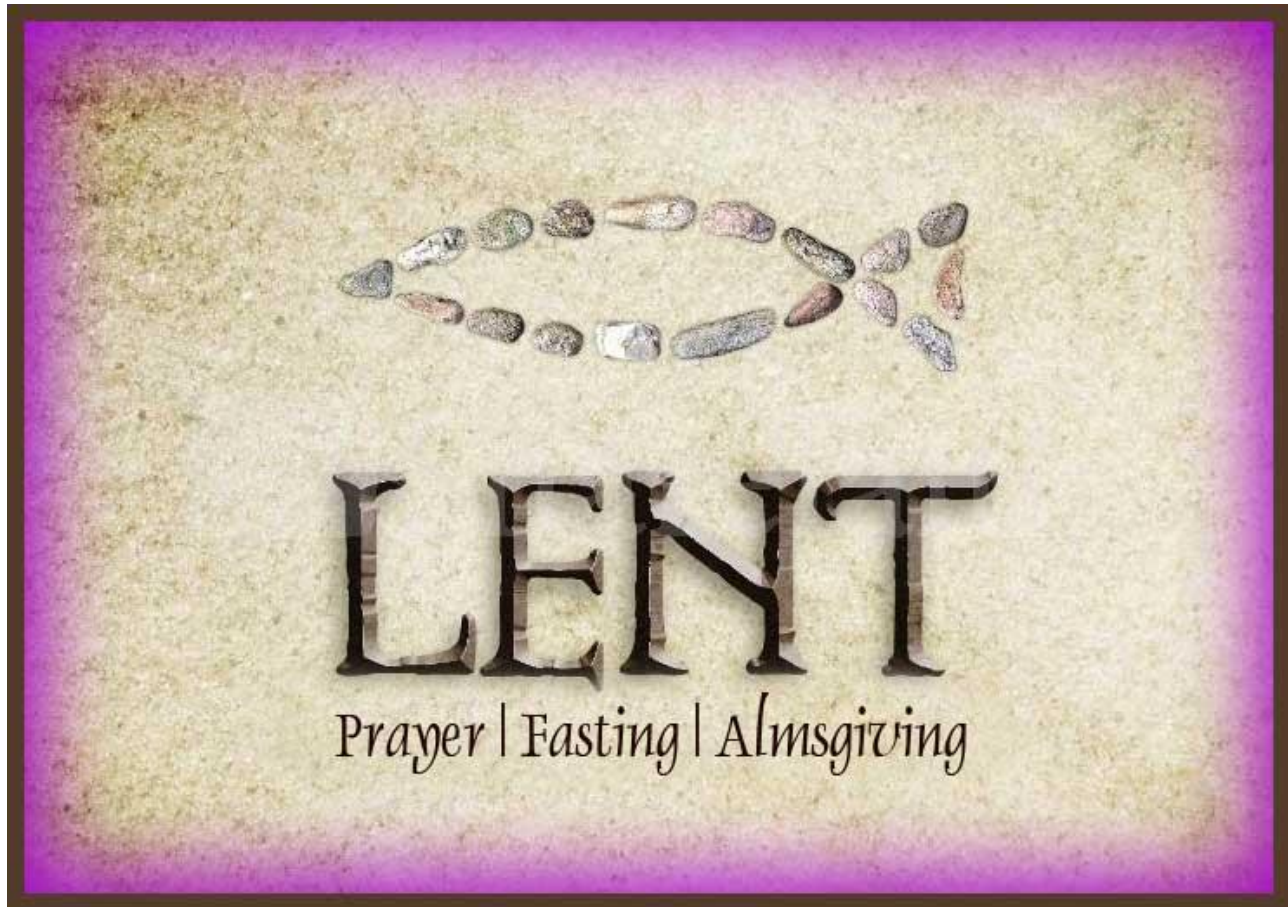
St. Venantius Church - 403 Main St., Rouseville

Sunday: 10:00 am

RECTORY OFFICE HOURS:

9:00 am - 4:00 pm Monday through Friday.





MASS SCHEDULE FOR THE WEEK

- MONDAY February 22, The Chair of St. Peter**
 7:00 AM For the Intentions of St. Stephen's Parishioners
 12:10 PM (Church) Betty Weidle (Family)
- TUESDAY February 23**
 7:00 AM Dorothy & Art Snyder (Marion English & Family)
- WEDNESDAY February 24**
 7:00 AM Elly Stubler (Family)
 12:10 PM (Church) Michael Woloszyn (Mike & Cindy)
- THURSDAY February 25**
 7:00 AM Bessie Puleo (Bob & Jan)
- FRIDAY February 26**
 7:00 AM Special Intention of Morning Mass Group
 12:10 PM (Church) John Winters (Stan/Loretta Warcholik)
 1:45 PM (School) Karen Streng (Bill/Regina McGrail Family)
- SATURDAY February 27**
 7:00 AM For Members of Our Parish Community
 5:30 PM **(Vigil)** Judith Jetter Crane (Margaret)
- SUNDAY February 28, Third Sunday of Lent**
 7:30 AM Gordon Bickel (Wife & Family)
 9:00 AM Robert Kissinger (Jo/Vicki, Stacy/Randy)
10:00 AM (St. Venantius) Gene Hale (Dan/Andrea Stubler)
 11:30 AM Charles May Sr. (Rosemary Brooker)

THIS WEEKS CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- SUNDAY February 21**
Food Collection for St. Elizabeth Center
- MONDAY February 22**
 6:30-8 p.m. Lenten Series – OLHC
- TUESDAY February 23**
8:30-11 a.m. OPEN HOUSE - SCHOOL
 7:00 p.m. RCIA – Social Center
- WEDNESDAY February 24**
 9:00 a.m. Stations – St. Venantius
 10:00 a.m. Servants Mtg. for Coordinators-Rectory
- FRIDAY February 26**
 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
 Boys JV Tournament-St. Patrick's, Franklin
- SATURDAY February 27**
 Boys JV Tournament – St. Patrick's, Franklin
 4:00 p.m. Confessions - Church

Points to ponder from Fr. Matt

If you've ever waited for someone in a bus, train, or plane terminal, you notice how the glances and the serious faces turn to smiles when they see their loved ones. Similar situation appears in today's Gospel. Jesus reveals himself in glory. The three apostles get a glimpse of who Jesus is. Their disposition changes as they accompany Jesus down the mountain.

Likewise we on our Lenten journey receive glimpses of the presence of God in our lives. Our somberness turns to joy as we experience the Lord.

Please make your pledge to CSA today. Thanks for all those who have done so.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF FEBRUARY 22-28

- MON: 1 Pt 5:1-4/Mt 16:13-19
- TUES:..... Is 1:10-20/Mt 23:1-12
- WED:.....Jer 18:18-20/Mt 20:17-28
- THURS:.....Jer 17:5-10/Lk 16:19-31
- FRI:Gn 37:3-28/Mt 21:33-46
- SAT:Mi 7:14-20/Lk 15:1-32
- SUN:.....Ex 3:1-15/1 Cor 10:1-12/Lk 13:1-9

FAMILY PERSPECTIVE: Jesus "went up the mountain to pray" and he was "changed." Prayer has the power to change us. This Lent set aside a few minutes each day to pray for members of your family. Pray before each meal and if you are married, spend five minutes in prayer together.

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.



EASTER FLOWER envelopes (yellow) were included in your February packet. They may be sent to the rectory or dropped in the collection basket from now until Palm Sunday, March 20th. If you don't have your envelope, you can always use your own as long as you include your name and those you would like remembered.

CHURCH ENVELOPES: We appreciate all who so faithfully use their envelopes and especially all who mail, drop off or put in the following week especially when they are out of town or were unable to get to church.

TO SCHEDULE A MASS, please call Connie (677-3020) for St. Stephen's and Jenny (677-4230) for St. Venantius. The stipend is \$10.

SERVERS FOR – FEBRUARY 27-28

- 5:30 Matthew/Faith/Ryan Ames
- 7:30 Anna Campbell-Sowden/Hunter Lancaster
- 9:00 Mathew Rudolph, Robert Wenner, John Wheeler
- 11:30 Andrew Giancola, MacKenzie Metz

LECTORS FOR – FEBRUARY 27-28

- 5:30 Frank Shepard
- 7:30 Kathleen Plyler
- 9:00 Evelyn Wheeler
- 11:30 Barb Reszkowski

EUCCHARIST MINISTERS FOR – FEBRUARY 27-28

- 5:30 Elizabeth Ames, Mike Morrison, Susan Stewart, Richard, Mary Wolfgang
- 7:30 Dan Karg, Kathy Stephens
- 9:00 Deb Mitchell, Dan/Jackie Moltz, Dawn Salata, Mary Vinopal
- 11:30 Mary Chapman, Felecia Nelson, Bob/Deb Schumacher, Carol Sundo

THE PEOPLE IN OUR PARISH:

SINCERE SYMPATHY is offered to the family and friends of *James W. Beichner*. May he 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 **OIL CITY PHYSICAL THERAPY, INC.**, and Lois Socha, LPT, 1054 1/2 Grandview Rd., for sponsoring an ad weekly in our bulletin.

A MEMORIAL to the School was made for *Eileen Drelick* by: Robert Conley, D.O., Linda Olmstead, D.O. and Laboratory Staff UPMC Northwest; Helen Drelick; Karen and Bill Gaddress; the Nancy King Family.



SERVANTS OF ST. STEPHEN:

ATTENTION COORDINATORS: There will be a meeting **THIS WEDNESDAY**, February 24th at 10 a.m. at the Rectory. Please call Connie (677-3020) if you are unable to attend.



YOU ARE NEEDED

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. Anything above our goal stays in our parish. We ask you prayerfully consider making a pledge if you haven't already done so.

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

CONGRATULATIONS to the following students who celebrated their First Reconciliation Saturday, February 13th: Alexis Fry, Matthew Giancola, Lily Szekeves & Abrianna Foley from St. Stephen Church and guests Taylor Gibson and Andrew Rehberg.

RCIA will meet Tuesday (23rd) at 7 p.m. in the Social Center.

LENTEN OPPORTUNITIES

Daily Mass is offered Monday through Saturday at 7 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 on Wednesday's at 9 a.m. at St. Venantius Church and 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.

Confessions are heard each Saturday at 4 p.m. at the Church.



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.

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.



"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 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.



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.

PRAY THE ROSARY: Join with others to pray for world peace in this troubled world each Sunday after the 7:30 a.m. Mass. All are welcome.
Sunday Morning Rosary Group

ST. STEPHEN SCHOOL NEWS

There will be an **OPEN HOUSE** for prospective families of children from Preschool through eighth grade this week, 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.

Join us for Mass Friday (26th) at 1:45 p.m. at the School. All are welcome.

Congratulations to the following 8th grade students who received first honors for science research projects submitted at the Pennsylvania Junior Academy of Science Regional Competition at Penn State Behrend: Makenzie Metz, Sam Puleo, Sydney Lambertson, Sarah Teeter, Isabella Tynski and Ashley Barletta.

Our cheerleaders are competing at St. Mike's cheer completion at Kennedy Catholic today (Sunday) at 2 p.m. Good luck to them and to our basketball team as they participate in St. Patrick's JV tournament next weekend.

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.

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.

ST. MARY'S, CROWN, will have a Craft and Garden Show Saturday, April 30th in their Social Hall. Looking for crafters/vendors/garden centers that may be interested in participating. With Mother's Day and Spring just around the corner, this is a great opportunity to offer unique gifts, flowers, and/or plants to your customers. Contact Keith/Shelia Martz at for more information and an application or email smwolbert@yahoo.com or text/call (814) 229-3083. .

CATHOLIC CHARITIES COUNSELING and Adoption Services provides help with diapers and baby supplies to pregnant women. Call 676-8263 to make an appointment.