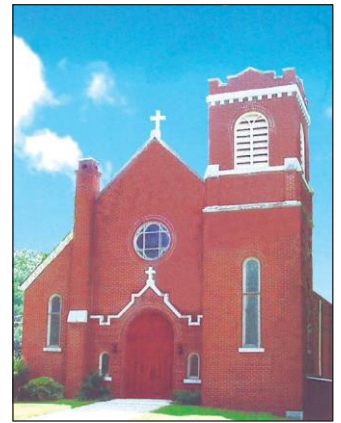


SAINT STEPHEN CHURCH
Oil City, PA

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

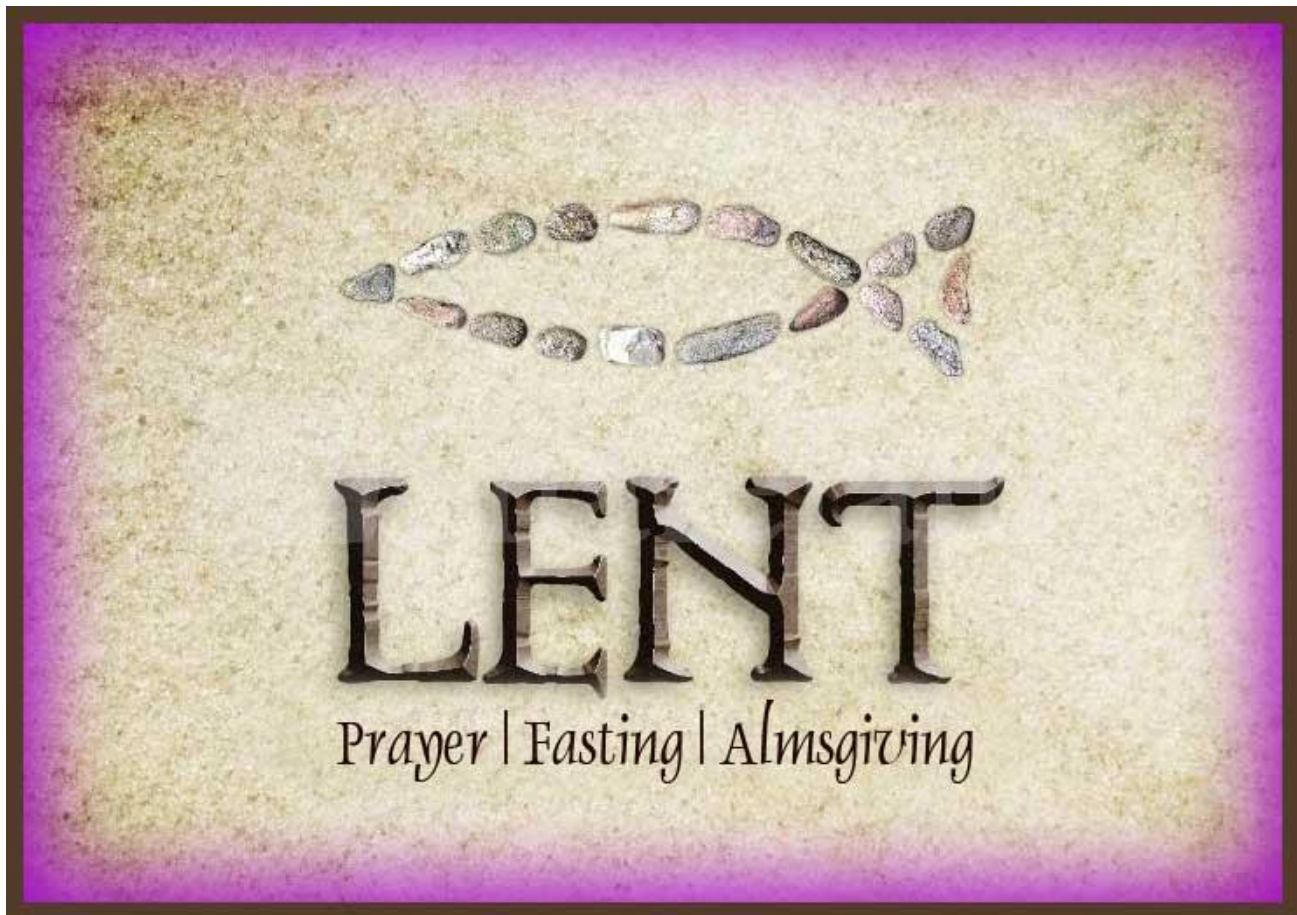
St. Venantius Church - 403 Main St., Rouseville

Sunday: 10:00 am

RECTORY OFFICE HOURS:

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





MASS SCHEDULE FOR THE WEEK

MONDAY	February 29
7:00 AM	Helen & Vince Eisenman (Margaret Klosinski & Family)
12:10 PM	(Church) Richard Henry (Family)
TUESDAY	March 1
7:00 AM	For the Poor Souls in Purgatory
WEDNESDAY	March 2
7:00 AM	Tillie Hinds (Richard & Lee Budzinski)
12:10 PM	(Church) Ray Konetsky (Sue Williams)
THURSDAY	March 3
7:00 AM	Miller Family Intentions (Gerry/Betty Miller)
FRIDAY	March 4
7:00 AM	Helen Perrett (Mary Lou Scottino)
12:10 PM	(Church) Jim Mong (Rita & Family)
1:45 PM	(School) Scott Frost (Bill/Regina McGrail & Family)
SATURDAY	March 5
7:00 AM	For Members of Our Parish Community
5:30 PM	(Vigil) Anthony Martone (Family)
SUNDAY	March 6, Fourth Sunday of Lent
7:30 AM	Mary Lee Schossler (Family)
9:00 AM	Margaret Nance (Mom)
10:00 AM	(St. Venantius) Lee Hugar (Lori Hugar)
11:30 AM	Robert Kase (Scott & Susan Kase)

THIS WEEKS CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SUNDAY	February 28
	Sign-Up Sheets for Palm Sunday and Holy Week in Sacristy
8:45-10:45 a.m.	Rel. Ed. – Gr. 9 – OLHC
9-11 a.m.	Rel. Ed. – P/K-8 & 10-School
MONDAY	February 29
6:30-8 p.m.	Lenten Series - OLHC
TUESDAY	March 1
7:00 p.m.	RCIA – Social Center
WEDNESDAY	March 2
9:00 a.m.	Stations – St. Venantius
FRIDAY	March 4
7:30-9 a.m.	Adoration – Chapel
	First Friday Communion Calls
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	March 5
9 am-3 pm	Contemplative Prayer-I.C. Clarion
10:00 a.m.	BAPTISM CLASS – Social Center
11:00 a.m.	Rel. Ed. Lenten Family Penance Service- St. Joseph Church
4:00 p.m.	Confessions - Church

JOIN THE DIOCESE OF ERIE AND THE WORLD in celebrating 24 HOURS for the LORD. March 4-5 DESIGNATED SITES 24 Hours for the Lord is a worldwide initiative of Pope Francis to call all people to receive the mercy of God through Eucharistic Adoration and Confession. All of the designated pilgrim sites in the Diocese of Erie will participate in this time of adoration and confession. For more information, please see the website of the Diocese of Erie at www.ErieRCD.org/mercy.htm.

DESIGNATED SITES

St. Peter Cathedral, Erie

Contact the parish office at 814-453-6677.
(Friday March 4 Mass with the Bishop at 5:15 p.m. Following Mass the Bishop will expose the Blessed Sacrament; 7 p.m. Evening Prayer and 10 p.m. Night Prayer. Saturday, March 5th: 3 a.m. Divine Mercy Chaplet; 6:30 a.m. Morning Prayer; 8 a.m. Mass. Also the Blessed Sacrament will be exposed until the Closing and Benediction prior to the 4 p.m. Vigil Mass. 12 p.m. Rosary and 4 p.m. Vigil Mass with Bishop Persico.)

Our Lady of Mercy, Harborecreek

For more information contact Brandon Vogt at 814-899-5342 ext. 13 or music@ourladyofmercychurch.org.

Divine Mercy Chapel at St. Bernard Parish, Bradford:

Contact the parish at 814-362-6825.

St. Michael, Greenville

Contact Fr. David Foradori, 724-588-9800 or 4adori@gmail.com.

Ss. Cosmas and Damian, Punxsutawney

Contact the parish office at 814-938-6540.

Sacred Heart, St. Mary's

Contact the parish office at 814-834-7861.

St. Joseph, Warren

Contact Jennifer Wortman at 814-723-2090 ext. 15 or jennifer.wortman@yahoo.com

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF FEBRUARY 29-MARCH 6

MON: 2 Kgs 5:1-15/Lk 4:24-30
TUES: Dn 3:25-43/Mt 18:31-35
WED: Dt 4:1-9/Mt 5:17-19
THURS: Jer 7:23-28/Lk 11:14-23
FRI: Hos 14:2-10/Mk 12:28-34
SAT: Hos 6:1-6/Lk 18:9-14
SUN: Jos 5:9-12/2 Cor 5:17-21, Lk 15:1-32

FAMILY PERSPECTIVE: The owner of the fig tree was impatient because the tree did not live up to his expectations. In families there are those who don't live up to our expectations. Imitate the gardener and give them more time and help. Don't cut them out of your life. Love asks us to be connected, not productive.

SERVERS FOR – MARCH 5-6

5:30 Colin Deeter/Gavin Empson
7:30 Chandler Chase/Parker Slagle
9:00 Daniel/Matthew McQuaide
11:30 Lily Cicatella/Jenna Kirkwood

LECTORS FOR – MARCH 5-6

5:30 Marcia Schumacher 9:00 Dan Wheeler
7:30 Mary Ellen McNellie 11:30 Bridget Kennedy

EUCHARIST MINISTERS FOR – MARCH 5-6

5:30 Ellen Flickner, Kay Hopwood, Maggie McMahon, Richard Stewart, Volunteer Needed
7:30 Richard McIntire/Tom McNellie
9:00 Max Dudzic, Joseph/Donna Jones, Deb Mitchell, Ray Stiglitz
11:30 Donna Goodman, Sandra Kerchner, Bill/Elaine Klapac, Kate Ostroske

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.

A DONATION TO THE 2nd Century Fund was made for Mary Rena Morrison by Rita Mong & Family.

A DONATION TO THE SCHOOL was made for Eileen Drelick, from The Nancy King Family.

SPONSOR OF THE WEEK

We would like to thank **SIEMBIDA Plumbing & Heating Services and Joseph Siembida**, for sponsoring an ad weekly in our bulletin.

CSA: The opportunity still exists for those who have not yet responded to this year's Catholic Service Appeal (CSA). Please return your pledges as soon as possible. Remember, anything above our goal stays in our parish.

CSA UPDATE

St. Stephen's goal is \$82,000

of Pledges Received: 157 (725 families registered)

Amt. Pledged: \$ 70,930 Amt. Rcvd: \$37,165

St. Venantius goal is \$5,000

of Pledges Received: (52 families registered)

Amt. Pledged: \$3,070 Amt. Rcvd: \$1,290

***NOTE: We have received some pledges that only have a name on it making it more difficult to know where to send. If visiting another church please put the CHURCH'S NAME on the envelope that you want to receive your pledge!!**



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.

Oil City K of C St. Patrick's Day Dinner March 12th, 2016, doors open at 6:00 p.m., dinner at 6:30 pm. Cost \$8.00 per person. Sign up at bar by March 5th. Menu: Corned beef, cabbage, Irish Potatoes, carrots, applesauce and dessert. Members & guests welcome.

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT



FIRST FRIDAY is this week (4th). Join us for Mass in the Reed Street Chapel at 7 a.m. followed by Adoration in the Chapel until 9 a.m. Fr. Matt and a Eucharistic Minister will visit and take Communion to the homebound throughout the morning. If you know someone who isn't able to get to church that needs visited, please call the rectory at 677-3020 by Wednesday.

RCIA will meet Tuesday (1st) at 7 p.m. in the Social Center.

THE NEXT BAPTISMAL CLASS in our area will be next 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.

RELIGIOUS ED. NEWS: Students in grade 9 will meet today from 8:45-10:45 a.m. at Our Lady Help of Christian. Those in P/K to Grade 8 & 10 will meet from 9-11 a.m. at the school.

Our **Religious Ed. Lenten Penance Service** for Grades 2 through 10 will be celebrated at **St. Joseph Church** next Saturday, **March 5**. Please be at Church by **10:50 a.m.**

On **March 20 {Palm Sunday}** Rel. Ed. students in Grades P/K through 8 along with **Gr. 10** will meet at the **Knights of Columbus** on Petroleum St. during regular class time. **Gr. 9** will meet at their regular location.

MEN'S CONFERENCE: Join your brothers from across the Diocese of Erie for the third annual 2232 Men's conference Sat., March 12 from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Warner Theatre, Erie. This day of inspiration, spiritual growth and worship, is open to men of all faiths, will feature national speakers, adoration, reconciliation and Mass with Bishop Lawrence Persico. Lunch and free parking, too! Visit www.2232Men.com or call (814) 455-7364 and join the 1,000 men expected to attend this day.

SIGN-UP SHEETS for Palm Sunday, Holy Week and Easter are available in the sacristy for *Servers, Eucharistic Ministers, & Lectors – Ushers* sheets will be at the main entrance. We ask you volunteer for the Mass you will be attending during Holy Week and Easter.

TAX RELIEF RAFFLE: Don't miss out in this year's Altar Rosary Society "50/50 Tax Relief Raffle." Tickets are \$1/each or 6/\$5.00 and can be purchased from Rosary Members or after 12:10 p.m. Mass on Friday at the Lenten Lunches in the Social Center. The drawing will be held April 15th. Thank you for your support.

SWEET SUNDAY: Just a reminder that we WILL NOT have Sweet Sunday next weekend since it's Lent.

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 can be found at the 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.

ST. STEPHEN SCHOOL NEWS

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. PLEASE SEE THE ENCLOSED INSERT for more information.

Join us for Mass Friday (4th) at the school. All welcome.

St. Pat's JV tournament continues this afternoon in Franklin. Our Varsity team will travel to Greenville for a 1 p.m. game.

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.

Mark your calendars for the **Palm Sunday Spaghetti Dinner** March 20th. Watch for more details in coming weeks.

LENTEN LUNCHESES are 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.

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.



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.

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.