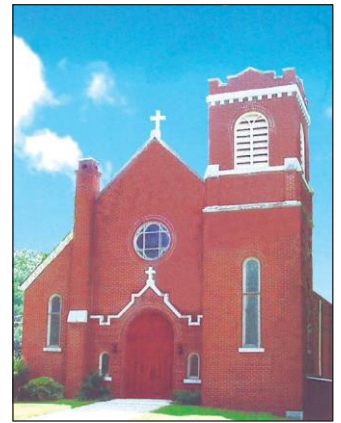


SAINT STEPHEN CHURCH
Oil City, PA

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

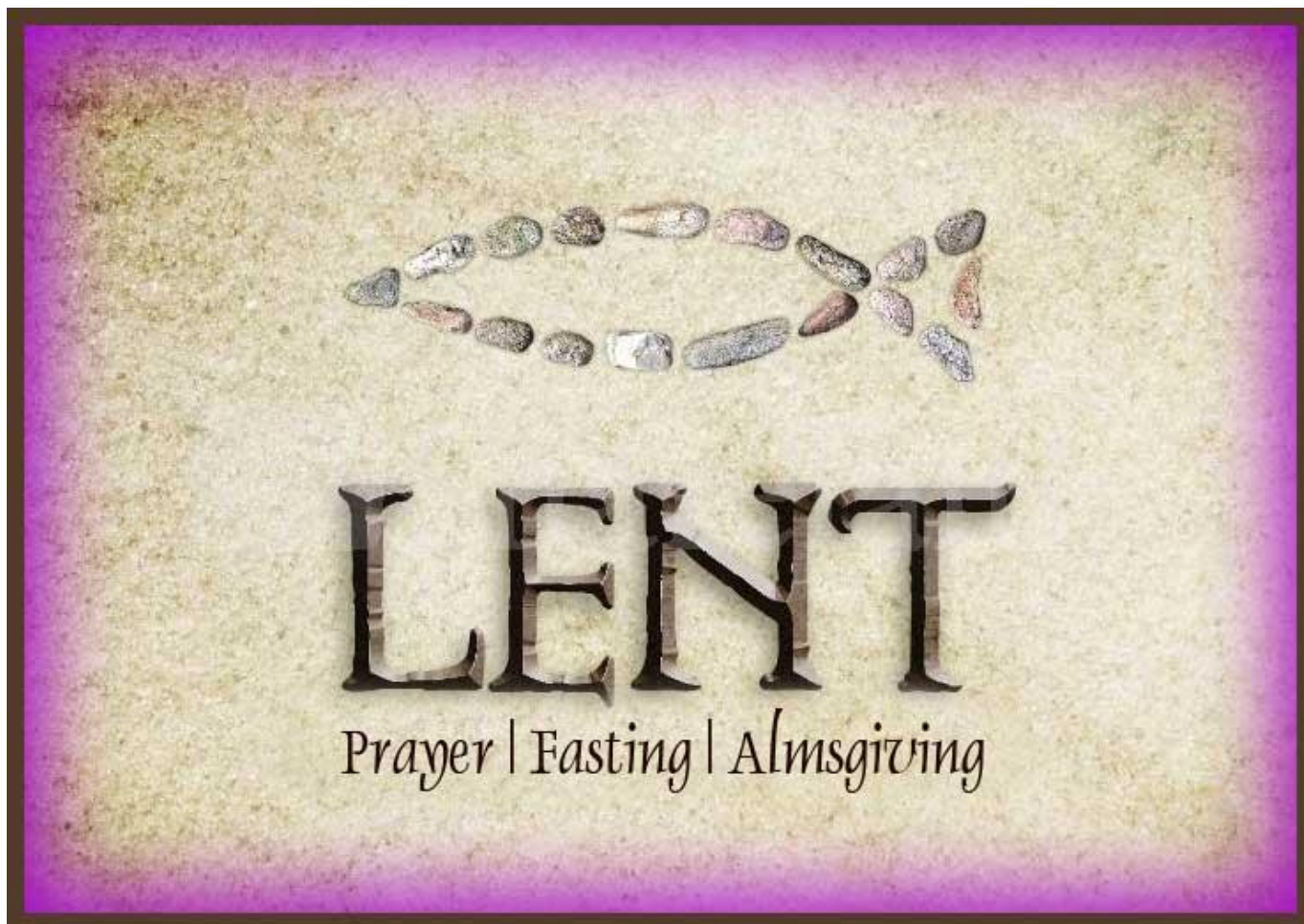
St. Venantius Church - 403 Main St., Rouseville

Sunday: 10:00 am

RECTORY OFFICE HOURS:

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





MASS SCHEDULE FOR THE WEEK

MONDAY	March 7
7:00 AM	Joe Foy Sr. (Joe & Deleen Foy)
12:10 PM	(Church) Frank Kulasza (Mary)
TUESDAY	March 8
7:00 AM	The Wheeler Family (Family)
WEDNESDAY	March 9
7:00 AM	M/M Elvin Weaver (Karen May)
12:10 PM	(Church) Robert Kase (Wife & Family)
THURSDAY	March 10
7:00 AM	Mary Pilewski (Family)
10:30 AM	(Golden Living) Elsie Powers (Family)
FRIDAY	March 11
7:00 AM	Special Intention of St. Stephen Parishioners
12:10 PM	(Church) Raymond Henry (Family)
SATURDAY	March 12
7:00 AM	For Members of Our Parish Community
5:30 PM	(Vigil) Myrnarae Horos (Fred & John Horos)
SUNDAY	March 13, Fifth Sunday of Lent
7:30 AM	Marilyn Mealy (Bob)
9:00 AM	Candace Lauer (Jeanne & Jim Kobolt)
10:00 AM	(St. Venantius) Sunseri & Malys Families
	(Sam & Toby Sunseri)
11:30 AM	Debbie Heath (Dave & Family)

THIS WEEKS CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SUNDAY	March 6
	Sign Up Sheets for Palm Sunday & Holy Week – Sacristy
MONDAY	March 7
6:30-8 p.m.	Lenten Series - OLHC
TUESDAY	March 8
	Registration – St. Stephen School
	(9-11 a.m. and Noon to 2:30 p.m.)
7:00 p.m.	RCIA – Social Center
WEDNESDAY	March 9
9:00 a.m.	Stations – St. Venantius
6:15 p.m.	Home & School – School
7:00 p.m.	School Board - School
THURSDAY	March 10
7:00 p.m.	Rosary Meeting – Social Center
FRIDAY	March 11
11:00-1:30 p.m.	Lenten Lunches – Social Center
1:00 p.m.	Penance Service - School
5:00-6:45 p.m.	Fish Fry - VCHS
7:00 p.m.	Stations – St. Stephen Church
SATURDAY	March 12
9-3:30 p.m.	Men’s Conference – Warner, Erie
6:00 p.m. (doors open)	St. Patrick’s Day Dinner-K of C
4:00 p.m.	Confessions - Church

Points to ponder from Fr. Matt

Guilt is never easy to admit. When we realize that there is someone who is waiting with open arms to welcome us back, the road to repentance becomes easier and shorter. Repentance is the worthy response to the wondrous gift of reconciliation given by God through Christ. Such a gift of life and freedom should be celebrated often and joyfully.

Please find solace and vitality in the various devotions and programs that are offered this Lenten season.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF MARCH 7-13

- MON:Is 65:17-21/Jn 4:43-54
- TUES:..... Ez 47:1-12/Jn 5:1-6
- WED:.....Is 49:8-15/Jn 5:17-30
- THURS:..... Ex 32:7-14/Jn 5:31-47
- FRI: Wis 2:1-22/Jn 7:1-30
- SAT: Jer 11:18-20/Jn 7:40-53
- SUN:.....Is 43:16-21/Phil 3:8-14/Jn 8:1-11

FAMILY PERSPECTIVE: We may feel like the Prodigal Son but the gospel wants us to focus on the father who was forgiving and understanding. We all make mistakes and need forgiveness. Who in your family needs your forgiveness and acceptance this Lent?

CATHOLIC HEART WORKCAMP will again be held in the Oil City area 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.

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.



DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME: Don't forget to change your clocks next weekend. We will turn our clocks *ahead* one hour. Daylight savings time begins at 2 a.m. March 13th.

SERVERS FOR – MARCH 12-13

- 5:30 Sarah/Jacob Teeter
- 7:30 Anna Campbell-Sowden/Robert Felmlee
- 9:00 Ashley/Alex/Scott Finch
- 11:30 Andrew Giancola/MacKenzie Metz

LECTORS FOR – MARCH 12-13

- 5:30 Mark Heim 9:00 Cindy Urban
- 7:30 Sam Gordon 11:30 Cindy Eckert

EUCCHARIST MINISTERS FOR – MARCH 12-13

- 5:30 Jean Allison, Mareeta Durney, Deb Lutz, Richard Stewart, Mary Wolfgang
- 7:30 Kathy Stephens, Debbie Winger
- 9:00 Michael Deibert, Joseph/Donna Jones, Mary Vinopal, Sue Williams
- 11:30 Mary Kay Berlin, Leon/Kathy Kulinski, Tom McNellie, Mary Anne Oliver

THE PEOPLE IN OUR PARISH:

SINCERE SYMPATHY is offered to the family and friends of *Harold "Red" Rogers and Jessee H. Kase*. 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.

BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS to *Norma Zacherl* as she celebrates her 90th birthday, Saturday, March 12th.

SPONSOR OF THE WEEK

We would like to thank **LEON S. KULINSKI, D.M.D., 207 Center St.**, for sponsoring an ad weekly in our bulletin.

A DONATION TO THE 2ND CENTURY FUND was made for *Mable Gammello* by Robert & Mary Simons.

A DONATION TO the School was made for *Eileen Drelick* from: Susie & Rick Drelick and Albert George Martyna



SERVANTS OF ST. STEPHEN:

Thanks to those who cook/bake for our *Welcome Home Group*. Parishioners just returning from a hospital stay that may need assistance with meals after you get home can call Regina McGrail at 678-8616, Coordinator to make arrangements. Meals are also available to families after the birth of a child.

CSA UPDATE

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

of Pledges Received: 181 (725 families registered)

Amt. Pledged: \$79,195 Amt. Rcvd: \$43,220

St. Venantius goal is \$5,000

of Pledges Received: 24 (52 families registered)

Amt. Pledged: \$4,295.00 Amt. Rcvd: \$2,015



"CATHOLIC SISTERS DAY" will be celebrated Sunday, March 13th throughout the Erie Diocese. The Bishop asks us to remember with gratitude the women who have given their lives in service to the Gospel of Jesus. We ask you to remember them in your prayers on this day.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

SIGN-UP SHEETS for Palm Sunday (March 20th), 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.

RCIA meets Tuesday (8th) at 7 p.m. in the Social Center.

THE ROSARY SOCIETY will have their monthly meeting Thursday, March 10th at 7 p.m. The meeting will begin with the Rosary. Sr. Tina Geiger will be the guest speaker and will talk about her recent trip to Lourdes and Fatima. A business meeting will follow. All ladies of the parish are welcome to attend.



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.

RELIGIOUS ED. NEWS: 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.

A MASS at Golden Living will be said Thursday, March 10

LENTEN LUNCHES 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.



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.

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.

LENTEN PENANCE SERVICE: Please mark your calendars for our Lenten Penance Service Tuesday, March 15 at 7 p.m. St. Patrick's Church will have theirs Sunday, March 20th at 4 p.m.

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 envelope. Please be sure to mark it "Easter Flowers" and include your name and those you would like remembered.

ST. STEPHEN SCHOOL NEWS

REGISTRATION for the 2016-17 school year for all grades (P/K-8) will be held this **Tuesday, March 8** from 9-11 a.m. and from 12-2:30 p.m. Please call the school at 677-3035 if you need more information.

Home & School will meet at 6:15 p.m. Wednesday (9th) followed by a School Board meeting at 7 p.m.

Students will have an opportunity for Confessions at a Penance Service Friday (11th) at 1:00 p.m. at the school.

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 "Spring Feast and Fun" Event** March 20th at the school from 11:30 a.m. until 2:20 p.m. There will be a *spaghetti and meatballs dinner* (featuring sauce by Luigi's restaurant of DuBois) that also includes rolls, salad, dessert selections and beverage. Cost is \$9/adults; \$8/Sr. citizens; \$5.50/students and preschool/free.

There will also be a huge *Chinese Auction*, an all school *Art Show* featuring art work from grades Pre-School through eighth grade, a sixth grade *Science Fair* and a *50/50 raffle*. Tickets for the dinner and raffle will be sold at the door. Drive-up/take-outs as well as free delivery (in Oil City) will be available by calling the school the day of the dinner at 677-3035.



"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 THIS 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.



REMINDER: Oil City K of C St. Patrick's Day Dinner next Saturday, March 12th. 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, ham, cabbage, Irish Potatoes, carrots, applesauce and dessert. Members & guests welcome.



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