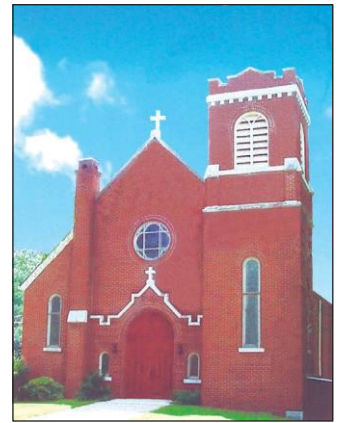


**SAINT STEPHEN CHURCH**  
Oil City, PA

**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.	<b>677-3020</b>
St. Stephen Church	21 State St.	Oil City
St. Venantius	403 Main St.	Rouseville
St. Stephen School	214 Reed St.	<b>677-3035</b>
Venango Catholic H. S.	1505 W. First St.	<b>677-3098</b>
Religious Education	35 Pearl Ave.	<b>677-4004</b>
St. Elizabeth Center	311 Emerald St.	<b>677-0203</b>
FAX #		<b>678-8841</b>

**PRAYER NETWORK:**

Mary Firster (676-1219) or e-mail her at [marych@usachoice.net](mailto: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](http://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

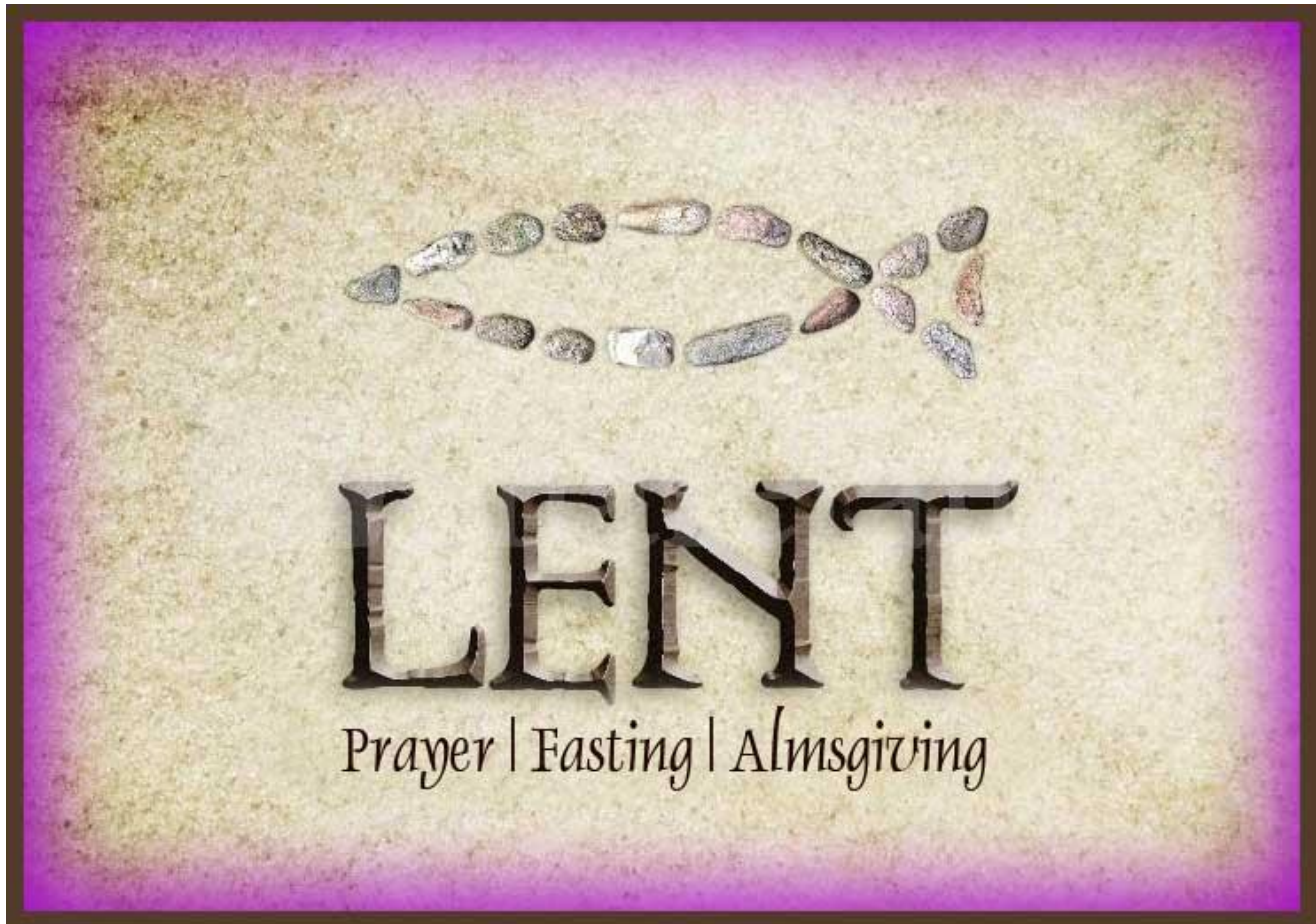
**St. Venantius Church - 403 Main St., Rouseville**

Sunday: 10:00 am

**RECTORY OFFICE HOURS:**

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





### MASS SCHEDULE FOR THE WEEK

<b>MONDAY</b>	<b>March 14</b>
7:00 AM	Dave & Louise Schreckengost (Family)
12:10 PM	(Church) Richard Henry (Family)
<b>TUESDAY</b>	<b>March 15</b>
7:00 AM	Joseph Leta (The Krimes Family)
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	<b>March 16</b>
7:00 AM	Tom Lucas (Mary Ann)
12:10 PM	(Church) Bill & Betty Weidle (Family)
<b>THURSDAY</b>	<b>March 17</b>
7:00 AM	Hazel Allio (Family)
10:00 AM	(Oakwood) Helen Eisenman (Gary/Nancy Schmader)
<b>FRIDAY</b>	<b>March 18</b>
7:00 AM	For Members of Our Parish Community
12:10 PM	(Church) Bessie Puleo (Bob & Jan Urban)
1:45 PM	(School) Dorothy/Dick Striker (Helen Guth)
<b>SATURDAY</b>	<b>March 19, St. Joseph</b>
7:00 AM	Joseph Tatara (Bob & Jan)
5:30 PM	(Vigil) Tim Morrison (Dad, Mom & Jackie)
<b>SUNDAY</b>	<b>March 20, Palm Sunday</b>
7:30 AM	Ruth, Ray, Judy & Jo Kearney (Larry)
9:00 AM	Shirley Bickel (Betty Snyder)
<b>10:00 AM</b>	<b>(St. Venantius)</b> The Stubler/Cavanaugh Family
	(The Stubler Family)
11:30 AM	Stanley Sobina (Family)

### THIS WEEKS CALENDAR OF EVENTS

<b>SUNDAY</b>	<b>March 13</b>
	<b>Sign Up Sheets – Sacristy</b>
8:45-10:45 a.m.	Rel. Ed. (Gr. 9) – OLHC
9-11 a.m.	Rel. Ed. (P/K-8 & 10) – School
<b>MONDAY</b>	<b>March 14</b>
1:30 p.m.	Early Dismissal – School
<b>TUESDAY</b>	<b>March 15</b>
7:00 p.m.	RCIA – Social Center
<b>7:00 p.m.</b>	<b>PENANCE SERVICE-CHURCH</b>
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	<b>March 16</b>
9:00 a.m.	Stations – St. Venantius
<b>THURSDAY</b>	<b>March 17</b>
	<b>HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY!</b>
<b>FRIDAY</b>	<b>March 18</b>
11:00-1:30 p.m.	Lenten Lunches – Social Center
5:00-6:45 p.m.	Fish Fry - VCHS
7:00 p.m.	<i>Living Stations</i> – St. Stephen Church
<b>SATURDAY</b>	<b>March 19</b>
<b>3-5:00 p.m.</b>	Confessions (2 Priests) - Church

**Points to ponder from Fr. Matt**

Life is a series of passages from youth to old age, from small dreams to fulfilled goals, from fool hardy daring o experienced risk taking, from failure to repentance, from death to life.

**READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF MARCH 14-20**

MON: ..... Dn 13:1-62/Jn 8:12-20  
TUES: ..... Nm 21:4-9/Jn 8:21-30  
WED: ..... Dn 3:14-95/Jn 8:31-42  
THURS: ..... Gn 17:3-9/Jn 8:51-59  
FRI: ..... Jer 20:10-13/Jn 10:31-42  
SAT: ..... 2 Sm 7:4-16/Rom 4:13-22/Mt 1:16-24/Lk 2:41-51  
SUN: ..... Lk 19:28-40/Is 50:4-7/Phil 2:6-11/Lk 22:14—23-49

**FAMILY PERSPECTIVE:** Stoning is not just an ancient act of violence. Each day in our homes we throw stones of ridicule, criticism, name-calling and put-downs. All of it is deadly. Hear Jesus in today’s gospel: “Whoever is without sin can throw the first stone.” Rid your home of violence. Stop verbal stoning!



**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 NEXT SUNDAY, March 20, if you want included in the memorial flyer on Easter. 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.

**CATHOLIC HEART WORKCAMP** will again be held in the Oil City are the week of July 5<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup>, 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 to either St. Elizabeth Center or Lydia’s Stitches by April 10<sup>th</sup>.

**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.

**ROSARY MEMBERS** can pick up the newest edition of Living Faith this weekend in the Server’s Sacristy.

**AN IRISH BLESSING**



May there always be work for your hands to do  
May your purse always hold a coin or two  
May the sun always shine on your windowpane  
May a rainbow be certain to follow each rain  
May the hand of a friend always be near you  
May God fill your heart with gladness to cheer you!



**SERVERS FOR – March 19-20, Palm Sunday**

5:30 Padraig/Ailish McGrail  
7:30 Hunter Lancaster/Parker Slagle  
9:00 Thomas Fink/Mathew Rudolph  
11:30 Noah, Joshua, Sam Puleo

**LECTORS FOR – March 19-20, Palm Sunday**

**SIGN UP SHEETS:** Please help fill in the empty slots. We will need 2 Volunteers for each Mass on Palm Sunday.

(At time of sending the bulletin Tuesday, March 8):

5:30 p.m. Frank Shepard/**Volunteer Needed**  
7:30 a.m. Bill Trypus/Kathy Plyler  
9:00 a.m. **2 Volunteers Needed**  
11:30 a.m. Bridget Kennedy/**Volunteer Needed**

**EUCCHARIST MINISTERS FOR –March 19-20, Palm Sunday**

5:30 Elizabeth Ames, Bob/Rosalie Bablak, Mike Morrison, Susan Stewart  
7:30 Cheryl Donze/Loretta Warcholik  
9:00 David Heinzer, Bob/Jan McCall, Dawn Salata, Ray Stiglitz  
11:30 Mary Chapman, Tom Karg, Felicia Nelson, Karen Shepard, Carol Sundo

**THE PEOPLE IN OUR PARISH:**

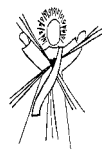
**PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS** those who are sick, in nursing homes or hospitalized as well as those who serve us in the military.

**WELCOME** *Harrison Joseph Coutts*, son of Bryan and Jamie Lynn (Divrigilo) Coutts and *David John Martz*, son of Wesley and Julie (Winters) Martz who were baptized recently.

**SPONSOR OF THE WEEK**

We would like to thank **MORRISON FUNERAL HOME, INC. and Michael D. Morrison, 110 Petroleum St.** for sponsoring an ad weekly in our bulletin.

**SERVANTS OF ST. STEPHEN:**



All Prayers in the *Prayer Network* are to be truly thanked for your constant dedication in praying for others. God does listen...God does hear...and God does answer. Call Mary Firster at 676-1219 with your requests or to let her know you’re prayers have been answered.



**CATHOLIC SERVICE APPEAL (CSA):** We encourage EVERYONE in the parish to participate by dropping your pledge in the collection or by mailing/dropping off at the rectory. Please return your pledge cards ASAP. Remember, anything above our goal remains in our parish!

**CSA UPDATE**

**St. Stephen’s goal is \$82,000**  
# of Pledges Received: 197 (725 families registered)  
Amt. Pledged: \$87,225 Amt. Rcvd: \$47,800  
**St. Venantius goal is \$5,000**  
# of Pledges Received: 26 (52 families registered)  
Amt. Pledged: \$4,585.00 Amt. Rcvd: \$2,305.00



## FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT


### PENANCE SERVICES

**St. Stephen Church:** Tuesday, March 15 at 7 p.m.

**St. Patrick Church:** Sunday, March 20 at 4 p.m.

**CONFESSIONS** will be heard from 3-5 p.m. NEXT Saturday, March 19<sup>th</sup> (2 Priests). THIS IS THE LAST OPPORTUNITY at St. Stephen's since the following week is Holy Week. Please take advantage of the times offered to make your Easter duty by either attending the Penance Service or individual confessions next Saturday.

**RELIGIOUS ED.: TODAY, March 20 {Palm Sunday}** Religious Ed. students in Grades P/K through 8 along with **Grade 10** will meet at the **Knights of Columbus** on Petroleum St. during regular class time. **Grade 9** will meet at their regular location.

 **SIGN-UP SHEETS for Palm Sunday (March 20<sup>th</sup>), Holy Week and Easter** are available in the sacristy for *Servers, Eucharistic Ministers, & Lectors – Ushers* sheets will be at the main entrance. **Palm Sunday is NEXT WEEK.** Please take time after Mass today to volunteer for the Mass you will be attending during Holy Week and Easter. We especially need Lectors (see column #2).

**RCIA** meets Tuesday (15<sup>th</sup>) at 7 p.m. in the Social Center.

**MASS at Oakwood** Thursday (17<sup>th</sup>) at 10 a.m. All are welcome.

**LIVING STATIONS:** This Friday (18<sup>th</sup>) the 8<sup>th</sup> grade class from St. Stephen's will do the *Living Stations* at 7 p.m. at Church.

The Stations are also offered on Wednesday at 9 a.m. at St. Venantius.

**TAX RELIEF RAFFLE:** The Altar Rosary Society are holding their annual *50/50 Tax Relief Raffle.* Tickets are \$1/each or 6/\$5.00 and can be purchased from Rosary Members, at the rectory or at the Lenten Lunches. The drawing will be held April 15<sup>th</sup>. Thank you for your support.

**LENTEN LUNCHESES:** The **LAST** Lunch will be THIS Friday (18<sup>th</sup>) since we will NOT serve on Good Friday. Lunch is served from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Join us for 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.



**THE PALM SUNDAY "Spring Feast and Fun" Event** will be NEXT SUNDAY, March 20<sup>th</sup> 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. The **GAS RAFFLE** will be drawn at the dinner.

### ST. STEPHEN SCHOOL NEWS

Students will have an early dismissal (1:30 p.m.) Monday (14<sup>th</sup>).

Join us for Mass at 1:45 p.m. Friday (18<sup>th</sup>) at the school. All are welcome!

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 20<sup>th</sup> at the school. School families should return all tickets (including any unsold), all sales forms and money to the school by Wednesday, March 16<sup>th</sup>.

**STEELER TICKETS:** Win 4 2016 Season tickets. Cost is \$10/ticket or 3/\$20. Tickets can be purchased at the school, from school families or online at [www.winsteelerstickets.com](http://www.winsteelerstickets.com). The winner will be drawn at VCHS, Sunday, July 24, 2016 at 2 p.m. Proceeds benefit St. Patrick School, St. Stephen School and VCHS.

**All you can eat" LENTEN FISH DINNERS at Venango Catholic:** This Friday (18<sup>th</sup>) will be the **LAST dinner** since they are NOT served on Good Friday. 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.



**LENTEN SERIES:** Don't forget there is 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.

**LAYMEN'S GOOD FRIDAY breakfast** March 25<sup>th</sup>. A breakfast will be served at the K of C Hall at 6 a.m. and dismiss next door to Grace United Methodist Church for the 7 a.m. worship service which will conclude at 8 a.m. Tickets are \$8 and available at the door and can be purchased at various locations including Friedhaber's, Williams Decorating, Somers Denistry (Seneca).

The Good Friday Cross Walk will begin at 10:30 a.m. For more information, call Phil Thompson at 758-6208.



**OUTDOOR STATION of the Cross Walk:** St. Michael Church, Fryburg will be offering an Outdoor Stations of the Cross Walk at 7:00 pm Friday, March 18<sup>th</sup>. They will be starting at the Church and walking through the village of Fryburg. It will be held rain or shine and there will be Coffee/Hot Chocolate available at Montana's Country Cafe and P J's Deli. If you find walking difficult, driving from Station to Station would be acceptable. Please come, bring a friend, and see you there.

**TAKING UP THE GIFTS at Mass:** If you or your family would like to take the gifts up at the Offertory, please see the ushers before Mass to let them know. We appreciate your participation and encourage you to volunteer.



**"CATHOLIC SISTERS DAY"** will be celebrated TODAY, Sunday, March 13<sup>th</sup> 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.