



Our Lady of Peace

Celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation



the light is ON for you at

All Saints, Waterford
 Blessed Sacrament
 Holy Cross
 Holy Rosary
 Our Lady of the Lake, Edinboro
 Our Lady of Mercy, Harborcreek
 Our Lady of Mount Carmel
 Our Lady of Peace
 Our Mother of Sorrows (St. Ann)

St. Boniface
 St. Francis Xavier, McKean
 St. George
 St. James
 St. Joseph/Bread of Life Community
 St. Lawrence, Albion
 St. Luke
 St. Mark the Evangelist, Lawrence Park
 St. Peter Cathedral

Celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation

Wednesday, December 9, 2020
 5:00 - 7:00 pm

Special Masses This Week:

Monday, December 7th - St. Ambrose, Bishop and Doctor of the Church (4th Century Milan)

Tuesday, December 8th - Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Wednesday, December 9th - St. Juan Diago (visionary of the Our Lady of Guadalupe— 16th century Mexico)

Thursday, December 10th - Advent Weekday

Friday, December 11th - St. Damasus I, Pope (4th Century— promoted devotion to the saints and called the council that determined the canon of Sacred Scripture)

Saturday, December 12th - Our Lady of Guadalupe (appeared to St. Juan Diego in Mexico in 1531)



ST. MARTIN CENTER SHINING STARS MISSION

SPONSOR A CHILD

You can make a difference in the life of a child by providing gift cards for Christmas. Our Lady of Peace Parish is sponsoring 100 children who need Christmas gifts.



This year we will be collecting **GIFT CARDS ONLY**.

Gift Cards can be in the amount of \$25 - \$50 from the following:

Target, Wal-Mart, Five Below.

Drop off your gift cards in the marked box or in the church office until Sunday, December 6.



Bulletin Deadlines for December and January

The Holidays are fast approaching and with it comes early bulletin deadlines:

For Sunday, December 20, 2020, articles are due by December 7, 2020

For Sunday, December 27, 2020, articles are due by December 14, 2020

For Sunday, January 3, 2021, articles are due December 18, 2020

For Sunday's January 10, 2021, articles are due December 21, 2020

You may e-mail the info to: cynthia.berarducci@olp.org; fax it: 814.833.7702; or drop it off at the church office.

Thank you, in advance, for your cooperation with these early deadlines.

Parish Office Phone

814-833-7701

Fax

814-833-7702

Website

www.olp.org

E-mail

olp@olp.org

School

814-838-3548

Faith Formation Office

814-838-9983

Office Hours: 8:00AM - 8:00PM

Business Hours: 8:00AM - 4:00PM

Parish Pastoral Team

Pastor

Rev. Rich Toohey

Parochial Vicar

Rev. Mark Hoffman

Priest in Residence

Rev. Shane Mathew

Permanent Deacons

Rev. Dr. Glenn Bailey

Rev. Mr. John Mang

Rev. Mr. Joseph Yochim, Jr.

School Principal

Mrs. Lisa Panighetti

Music/Liturgy Director

Mr. Brian Kuzmin

Faith Formation Director

Mrs. Tammie Mang

Youth Minister

Office Manager

Mrs. Mary Beth Whitman

Office Secretary

Mrs. Cynthia Berarducci

Maintenance Supervisor

Mr. Michael Przepierski

Pastoral Council President

Ms. Nancy Milkowski

Finance Council Chairman

Mr. Paul Wojtek

The Sacrament of Baptism

is celebrated the 1st & 3rd Sunday of each month, 11:00AM Mass & 12:30PM respectively. A mandatory preparation class for parents is available (6-7PM):

2020: Call the office for info.

Call the Parish office to register.

Sacrament of Matrimony

An appointment with a parish priest six months prior to the wedding date.

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Wednesdays 11:30-12:00 or by appt. Saturdays 8:30-9AM; 3:45-4:45PM

New Parishioners

Welcome! Registration forms are available in the Parish Office or online.

RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation)

Anyone seeking information on becoming Catholic or completing one's initiation into the Catholic faith should call the Parish Office.

Prayer Request Line:

Day: Kandace, 453-6515

Night: Donna, 866-0792



Our Mission Statement:
 Our Lady of Peace is a Catholic Community of Faith called to proclaim the greatness of the Lord through Worship, Service, Education and Ministry.



Second Sunday of Advent Dec. 6, 2020

Every valley shall be filled in,
 every mountain and hill shall be made low.

— *Isaiah 40:4*

West Millcreek Food Pantry

The following are suggested items to purchase for each week; you may buy what is on sale; all non-perishables are acceptable. CEREAL is needed.

December 2020



6th Tuna / Canned Fruits

13th Toilet Tissue / Shampoo

20th Mac & Cheese / Peanut Butter

27th Cereal / Canned Vegetables

Pantry is OPEN December 8th & 22nd

(every 2nd & 4th Tuesday) 9-11AM for those living in

Millcreek & for OLP Parishioners,

at the Westminster Presbyterian Church,

3642 West 26th Street.

The West Millcreek Food Pantry is asking for extra food donations:

- Canned Soup
- Canned Vegetables
- Whole Grain Cereal
- Any non-perishable food/item that you are able to donate
- Plastic Grocery Bags
- Granola Bars

The Food Pantry is so thankful to those who have continued to make donations.

Parish Advent Project supporting our brothers and sisters in need in the Millcreek Area. Donations of the following are needed:

Laundry Supplies Bar Soap Toothpaste/Toothbrush/Mouthwash
 Personal Hygiene (Deodorant, Etc) Shampoo/Conditioner (regular size)
 Trash Bags Household Cleaning Supplies Dish Detergent

Sunday's Readings:

First Reading - The rugged land shall be made a plain; the rough country, a broad valley (Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11).

Psalm - Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation (Psalm 85).

Second Reading - Conduct yourselves in holiness, hastening the coming of the day of God (2 Peter 3:8-14).

Gospel - I have baptized you with water; he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit (Mark 1:1-8).

The English translation of the Psalm Responses from the *Lectionary for Mass* © 1969, 1981, 1997, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved.

Family Discussion of the Week: Patience

The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish but all to come to repentance. (2 Peter 3:9)

Adults: With whom could you be more patient this week, as God has been patient with you?

Kids: With whom can you be more patient?

GOD'S DELAY

In times of great difficulties scoffers taunt us, "Where is God? Why hasn't your Lord come to save you now?"

And we of faith respond much in the same way as Peter did in today's second reading: the "delay" of the Lord's second coming is not any type of punishment or failure to keep the divine promise, but a loving sign of God's patience. God is giving *everyone* the chance to seek repentance.

God does not make life more difficult. Rather, God lessens our burdens as once before for the Jewish exiles returning home to Judea after captivity in Babylon. It was God who personally led them, making a "straight highway" for them across the desert.

We join with our ancestors of faith, who hoped that they might see God's Chosen One before them and who eventually realized that the Lord was also walking with them side by side.

MASS INTENTIONS

Readings for the Week of December 6th

MONDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2020

7:00AM Jack Curtis - 7AM Mass Group
12:10PM Don DiPlacido - Gerry Ryan

Holy Day Vigil Mass:

5:30PM Sylvester Berarducci -
Denise & Michael Gaines
6:30PM Holy Hour

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2020

The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

7:00AM Living & Deceased Members of OLP
9:00PM School Mass - Attilio Ciccozzi -
Ehrman Family
12:10PM Mary Ann Arnold - Melanie Forsberg

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2020

7:00AM Joann Jackson - Allison Price
11:30-Noon Confessions
12:10PM Helen Molder - Family

5:00-7:00PM **The Light is On For You**
Celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2020

7:00AM Paul Hopsegar - Jean Verdecchia
12:10PM Mary DiPaolo - Family

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2020

7:00AM Alberta Bigwood -
Granddaughter, Melissa Bigwood
12:10PM Dave Christenson - Family

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2020

8:00AM John Pulice - Family
8:30-9AM Confessions
3:45-4:45PM Confessions
5:00PM Mary Lou Wagner - Corky Young

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2020

Third Sunday of Advent

7:30AM Marge Wojtkielewicz - Dave & Aline
9:00AM Frances Piatkowski - Family
11:00AM Dolores Berarducci - Friend
4:30PM Parishioners

The church will remain open for private prayer daily from 7:00AM - 8:00PM.

The church office staff is available by phone or email: 833-7701 / olp@olp.org

Confessions available (in the Chapel):

Wednesdays 11:30-Noon

Saturday 8:30-9AM and 3:45-4:45PM

➔ Sundays After all the Masses during Advent or by appointment - call the Church Office

SANCTUARY LAMP - The lamp is burning this week in memory of Joseph Pettinato - Family.

CHAPEL LAMP - The lamp is burning this week in memory of Jean M. Yezzi - Family.

Monday: Is 35:1-10; Ps 85:9ab, 10-14; Lk 5:17-26
Tuesday: Gn 3:9-15, 20; Ps 98:1-4; Eph 1:3-6, 11-12; Lk 1:26-38
Wednesday: Is 40:25-31; Ps 103:1-4, 8, 10; Mt 11:28-30
Thursday: Is 41:13-20; Ps 145:1, 9, 10-13ab; Mt 11:11-15
Friday: Is 48:17-19; Ps 1:1-4; Mt 11:16-19
Saturday: Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab; Jdt 13:18bcde, 19; Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47, or any readings from the Common of the Blessed Virgin Mary, nos. 707-712
Sunday: Is 61:1-2a, 10-11; Lk 1:46-50, 53-54; 1 Thes 5:16-24; Jn 1:6-8, 19-28

BANN II

Victor Hudson / Peyton Hanlon



PRAYERS FOR THE DECEASED - Please pray for: James Ricotta; for Carmine Camillo; for Frank Sowieralski; for Louis Minadeo; for Teresa Tripodi; and for Willard Passauer. May their families find hope and consolation through their faith in the resurrected Lord.

OLP 31 Club

Praying for vocations every day of the year!

Members agree to go to daily Mass on a particular day every month and offer that Mass for an increase of vocations to the Church. There is a great need for vocations. One of the best ways to increase vocations is through prayer, and the greatest prayer we have is the holy sacrifice of the Mass.

Upcoming Mass commitments:

Dec. 6: Maxine B., Denise & Michael G., Susan F.

Dec. 7: Margaret K.

Dec. 8: Peggy C., Tim G., Pat H., Catilda M., Patricia P., Diane & Bill S., Jean V., Ann S.

Dec. 9: Ellie A., Elaine S., Jane D., Bill C.

Dec. 10: Ann T., Veronica W., Pat C., Pat M.

Dec. 11: Dave D., Paul M., Connie S.

Dec. 12: Rose B., Madeline H., Chris P.

If you would like to join the OLP 31 Club, please call Dave or Kathy Wayman at 397-6443. There are no dues and no meetings, only opportunities for grace and the satisfaction that comes from helping to fulfill a great need in the Church.

When at Mass offer the Mass for

Vocations by praying the prayer below:

O God, who wills not the death of a sinner * but rather that he be converted and live * grant we beseech you * through the intercession of the Blessed Mary, ever Virgin * Saint Joseph, her spouse * St. Junipero Serra * and all the saints * an increase of laborers for your Church * fellow laborers with Christ to spend and consume themselves for souls * through the same Jesus Christ * Your Son * Who lives and reigns with You * In the unity of the Holy Spirit * God forever * and ever. Amen.

Serra Prayer for Vocations

From the Pastor's Desk...

Happy Feast of St. Nicholas! I share with you an article from the Catholic News Agency about this beloved saint. "Every year on December 6th, the faithful commemorate a bishop in the early church who was known for generosity and love of children. Born in Lycia in Asia Minor around the late third or fourth century, St. Nicholas of Myra is more than just the inspiration for the modern-day Santa.

As a young man he is said to have made a pilgrimage to Palestine and Egypt in order to study in the school of the Desert Fathers. On returning some years later he was almost immediately ordained Bishop of Myra, which is now Demre, on the coast of modern-day Turkey. The bishop was imprisoned during the Diocletian persecution and only released when Constantine the Great came to power and made Christianity the official religion of the Roman Empire.

One of the most famous stories of the generosity of St. Nicholas says that he threw bags of gold through an open window in the house of a poor man to serve as dowry for the man's daughters, who otherwise would have been forced into prostitution. The gold is said to have landed in the family's shoes, which were drying near the fire. This is why children leave their shoes out by the door, or hang their stockings by the fireplace in the hopes of receiving a gift on the eve of his feast.

St. Nicholas is associated with Christmas because of the tradition that he had the custom of giving secret gifts to children. It is also conjectured that the saint, who was known to wear red robes and have a long white beard, was culturally converted into the large man with a reindeer-drawn sled full of toys because in German, his name is "San Nikolaus" which almost sounds like "Santa Claus." In the East, he is known as St. Nicholas of Myra for the town in which he was bishop. But in the West he is called St. Nicholas of Bari because, during the Muslim conquest of Turkey in 1087, his relics were taken to Bari by the Italians. St. Nicholas is the patron of children and of sailors. His intercession is sought by the shipwrecked, by those in difficult economic circumstances, and for those affected by fires. He died on December 6, 346."

I hope the holy man behind the Santa story can inspire all of us to keep "Christ" in Christmas and never forget the true reason for this time of year. In our Advent Faith Formation program last Monday, Bob Rice spoke about the practice in his home growing up of placing a piece of straw in the empty cradle of Jesus in your manger scene every time you do an act of kindness or charity. I love that idea, especially great for the children. Let's create a comfortable cradle for the baby Jesus this Advent by imitating St. Nicholas with love for others in need this Advent Season.

May God bless our 2nd week of Advent ahead!

Fr. Rich

Our Lady of Peace, patroness of our parish & school.... pray for us!

St. Nicholas, patron of the Erie Catholic School System. pray for us!

Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception, patroness of the Catholic Church of the USA... pray for us!

St. Joseph, universal patron of the church.... pray for us!

St. Patrick, patron of the Diocese of Erie.... pray for us!

Other notes from the pastor...

****Thank you for everyone** who supported OLP though the iGiveCatholic Campaign over the last few weeks. As of the printing of this bulletin we had 118 donations for \$24,287 which had us leading the Diocese of Erie and number 29 in the United States. Well done OLP!

****The Light Is On For You"** Many churches in the Erie area (including OLP) will be a part of the **"Light Is On For You" Initiative on Wednesday, December 9th from 5-7pm.** Participating churches will be open during that time and priests will be available for confession. There will be no Advent Penance Service this year due to COVID and I believe the above opportunities will more than make up for that.

****Special Masses This Week** Monday, December 7th- St. Ambrose, Bishop and Doctor of the Church (4th Century Milan); Tuesday, December 8th- Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary; Wednesday, December 9th, St. Juan Diego (visionary of the Our Lady of Guadalupe-16th century Mexico); Thursday, December 10th- Advent Weekday; Friday, December 11th- St. Damasus I, Pope (4th Century- promoted devotion to the saints and called the council that determined the canon of Sacred Scripture); Saturday, December 12th- Our Lady of Guadalupe (appeared to St. Juan Diego in Mexico in 1531). *No Mass In Time of Pandemic because weekday Masses of Advent take precedent.

****Feast of the Immaculate Conception and Advent Holy Hour** December 8th is the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. **OLP Masses are Monday, December 7th at 5:30pm and Tuesday, December 8th at 7am, 9am (school Mass) and 12:10pm.** The 5:30pm and 7am Masses will be live-streamed on YouTube. ALSO, our **monthly holy hour of Eucharistic Adoration will be Monday from 6:15-7:15pm concluding with Benediction.** We will have mostly silence with some Advent songs for meditation throughout as a way to embrace the Advent call to watchful silence. The holy hour will also be available via the parish YouTube channel.

****Adult Faith Formation in Advent** There will be an evening Session during Advent on **Monday, December 14th from 6:30-8pm in the main church.** We will use an Advent Collection on FORMED with presentations by Edward Sri (Watch and Pray) and Tim Gray (The Gift). The group discussions will be available via livestream as well. See elsewhere for more information.

****Confessions during Advent** In addition to our normal times during the week (Wednesdays 11:30am-12Noon; Saturdays at 8:30am and 3:45-4:45pm) we will also have confessions after ALL Sunday Masses including 4:30pm. Confessions take place in the chapel with the chairs for face to face or anonymous both 6 feet from the confessor.

****65th Anniversary Acts of Kindness and Formation** We are more than two months into the Acts of Kindness and Formation challenge and have over 3,200 acts of kindness or formation recorded. Please continue to turn in your completed acts form (deadline is Friday, January 1st) and join the whole parish in growing in faith and charity.

****Christmas Mass Schedule** Remember to send in your Mass preference and number of tickets. For more info go to our website (www.olg.org).

****The Value of a Spiritual Communion** One big sacrifice that some of us are making is not going to Mass in person and therefore not receiving the gift of the Eucharist, the Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of Christ. It is important for those who are in that situation to remember that they are not sacrificing all the grace of being physically at Mass and receiving Holy Communion. Our Catholic Tradition has always taught the value and grace of making a Spiritual Communion if we cannot receive the Eucharist. Whether someone is in a marriage situation that prevents them from going to Holy Communion, or they have not been going to Mass regularly, or they have committed a grave sin, or they have a physical condition that prevents them from receiving Communion, or whatever the case may be, there is still much grace in going to Mass or participating virtually.

Pope Francis says it this way, "United to Christ we are never alone, but instead form one body, of which he is the head. It is a union that is nourished with prayer and also with spiritual communion in the Eucharist, a practice that is recommended when it isn't possible to receive the sacrament." We are truly not alone, and at this time of pandemic it is most important that we join together in prayer and community. I remind you of one prayer for Spiritual Communion from St. Alphonsus Liguori that the Diocese recommended at the beginning of the pandemic and we have been saying it at Communion time for all of our live-streamed Masses. I hope you will join with us in reciting this prayer when we say it during Mass, and it's a great prayer to consider saying every day.

****PRAYER FOR SPIRITUAL COMMUNION:** "My Jesus, I believe you are really present in the Blessed Sacrament. I love you more than anything in the world, and I hunger to receive you. But since I cannot receive Communion at this moment, feed my soul at least spiritually. I unite myself to you now as I do when I actually receive you. Never let me drift away from you. Amen."

Mark Your Calendars...

The Light is on For You
Wednesday, December 9 5:00-7:00PPM
Confession available during this time frame

Advent Adult Faith Formation Evening
Monday, December 14th
6:30 - 8PM

Videos from FORMED; Group Discussion will be livestreamed on our FaceBook page.

OLP Casserole Club benefiting Maria House Project



Who among us has not felt a bit of gloom during this COVID-19 period? If you have, let us recall that we carry the Eternal Light within us. No matter how gray our mood might be, this is the time to sink into faith, a strong faith, one filled with gratitude. We can choose to share this gratitude with our generous kindness, a helping hand, a ready smile, a listening ear, a forgiving heart, a **casserole** for Maria House Project. No matter how gloomy we might be feeling, let the Light shine through us today. (adapted from Living Faith, Sr. Joyce Rupp, O.S.M.)

The residents, volunteers, guests and board members of Maria House Project wish everyone a Blessed Christmas and pray that you all stay well.

The December casseroles, benefiting Maria House Project, can be delivered to the Our Lady of Peace church meeting room (basement) on Saturday, December 19th, between 3:30 and 4:30pm. If you prefer another way, you can deliver it to our house by calling Skip or Dottie Glover at 814-440-3496 or email us at scottiedippy@gmail.com. If you bring the **casserole** to OLP all COVID procedures must be followed: face mask covering nose and mouth, and six foot distancing. The area will be sanitized before and after the event. You may also leave the **casserole** with the student in the office during the drop-off time.

Everyone at Maria House Project is grateful for your thoughtfulness!

Advent Adult Faith Formation Evening



"It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas."

What does that look like at your house?

How exactly are we preparing our hearts for the greatest gift we've ever been given?

Join OLP in church on
Monday, December 14th from 6:30 - 8PM
as we "Watch & Pray" with Ed Sri and
"The Gift" with Tim Gray

If you would like to participate from home, you can watch the videos on FORMED. For instructions on how to join FORMED (for free) go to page 6 of this bulletin.

Only the Group Discussion will be livestreamed on our FaceBook page.

Our Lady of Peace Parish Membership Form

Name _____ Phone _____
Address _____
City _____ Zip _____

Please drop Membership Form into the offertory basket or mail to rectory.

CHECK ONE:

- New Registration
- Change of Address
- Moving out of Parish
- Want envelopes

Ways to stay connected during this time:

As most of our communications will be by EMail please make sure the office has your current email.

We are sending weekly emails with updates and resources you can use to strengthen your Spiritual life. Also visit our website: **www.olp.org**.

Downloaded the **MyParishApp** as we will use the App as well to communicate during this time.

To the right are directions for the App and how to log into FORMED, which is one of our greatest resources.



Download Our Parish App!



myParish App

Our OLP app is available to download for iPhone and Android smartphones. Stay connected with our parish throughout the week with instant notifications, an easy-to-access event calendar, and the ability to quickly reply to or share messages via FaceBook or Twitter. **Download the myParish app by texting APP to phone number 88202.** You will receive a reply with the app link to download. Once downloaded, select Our Lady of Peace, Erie, PA.

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www.howardhanna.com

FAITH FORMATION NEWS

Classes have begun for all Religious Education students. If you have not heard from your child's catechist or Confirmation facilitator please contact Tammie Mang.

December 20 Confirmation forms due: Sponsor Form/Sponsor Certificate if Sponsor is not from OLP.

These forms may be turned in before the due dates and can be dropped off at the church office when you go to Mass or mailed to:

Our Lady of Peace Church
Faith Formation Office
2401 West 38th Street
Erie, PA 16506

All forms can be found on our website under the Faith Formation tab at www.olg.org
For more info please contact Tammie Mang, Faith Formation Director, at 838-9983 or Tammie.mang@olg.org

Watch Our Lady of Peace Mass On Our YouTube Channel

7:00AM Weekdays
8:00AM Saturdays
9:00AM Sundays



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SCHOOL ADVENT PROJECT: CELEBRATING 33 YEARS OF GIVING

Pre-K *Scholastic Pajamas*
Accepting: Children's Pj's
Kindergarten *Catholic Charities Mother-Infant Program*

Accepting: Diapers

Grade 1 *Kid's Café*

Accepting: Monetary Donations

Grade 2 *Highmark Caring Place*

Accepting: Monetary Donations

Grade 3 *Erie Dawn*

Accepting: Monetary Donations

Grade 4 *Sisters of St. Joseph*

Neighborhood Network

Accepting: Shampoo/Conditioner, toilet paper, paper towels, soap, deodorant

Grade 5 *St. Benedict Center*

Accepting: Socks

Grade 6 *Mercy Center for Women*

Accepting: Diapers, wipes, paper towels, toilet paper, tissues, toiletries for women

Grades 7/8 *St. Patrick's Haven*

Accepting: Monetary Donations

Please mark your items for each grade level and drop-off to church no later than December 15th.

Thank you for your generosity.

FEAST OF FAITH Watching for Christ's Coming

In the season of Advent, we look to the coming of Christ at the end of time, and we prepare ourselves to celebrate his first coming among us at Christmas. Remembrance of the past is combined with preparation for the future. Memory meets action.

In a certain sense, the Mass is an Advent prayer. At the Last Supper, Jesus did not tell his disciples, "Never forget what I did for you." Instead, he said, "Do this in remembrance of me." He calls us to remember by *doing*, to combine memory with action. In the celebration of the Eucharist, remembering and doing become one. Jesus is as present in our midst as he was in that upper room, breaking the bread and sharing the cup; but it is a new kind of presence, seen only with the eyes of faith. In the heavenly liturgy, there will be no need of sacraments, for there, "celebration is wholly communion and feast" (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 1136). Here, things are different. We have only glimpses and flashes of the beauty that is yet to be. And yet, in the liturgy, we truly participate in the heavenly liturgy. The Mass is our foretaste of the joys of heaven. —Corinna Laughlin, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co



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Diocese of Erie Vocation Office

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Serra for Priestly and Religious Vocations



Consider Remembering Your Parish in Your Will.

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Jim Lyons
Financial Advisor
CFP, AAMS



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Special Collection Next Week for the Retirement Fund for Religious



November 9, 2020

Help our elders. In good times and bad, senior Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests have dedicated themselves to service and acts of mercy. Today, they pray for an aching world. Yet years of serving for little or no pay have left their religious communities without enough retirement savings. Your gift to the Retirement Fund for Religious helps provide medications, nursing care, and other necessities.

Please prayerfully consider a donation to the Retirement Fund for Religious.

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Another year has passed, and we are again approaching the annual collection for our Retired Religious to be held in parishes on December 12th and 13th. This event has significant benefits for the retired Sisters in our diocese, as well as the over 30,000 throughout the country.

The Retirement Fund for Religious offers financial support for those Catholic sisters, brothers and religious order priests who worked for years for small or no stipends. Last year, the people in this diocese contributed \$171,106.90 to help defray the costs of medication, nursing care, medical equipment, transportation, physical and occupational therapy and other necessary needs. Your generous gifts provide vital support for their ongoing health care helping them to age with dignity, safety and comfort. This year of the pandemic has been especially hard on communities of our elderly religious since many have COVID-19 protocols and visiting restrictions so that, along with these additional costs, there is also the emotional toll of loneliness and isolation for our senior religious.

Due to their years of faithful witness to the Gospel, senior religious are our treasure in the Church. Their dedication and hard work laid the foundation for Catholic schools, religious education programs, hospitals, social service agencies and countless other ministries throughout our diocese; many still serve those in need, today. Some of you may not presently know consecrated men and women, but they have affected your lives through their ministry to your parents and grandparents and through the many organizations now in place due to their foresightedness and generosity. Ministries started by Sisters have had a tremendous influence in this diocese and they stand as a legacy to those generous women who dedicated their lives in service to the reign of God and continue to find ways to minister to others. I join you in praising God for their faithful and generous service to the Church in the past and in the days and years to come.

I understand you are asked to support many worthy causes. I invite you only to give what you can. Most importantly, please pray for an increase of vocations to the consecrated life and for God's continued blessing on all our women and men religious. Know you remain in their prayers. Please join me in supporting the Retirement Fund for Religious.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+Lawrence T. Persico

The Most Reverend Lawrence T. Persico, JCL
Bishop of Erie



DIocese of Erie ♦ P.O. Box 10397 ♦ ERIE, PENNSYLVANIA 16514-0397
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A Family Perspective

Why is it so hard to forgive, yet so easy to get even?
Listen to John the Baptist in today's gospel and repent of the anger and ugly feelings which block your ability to forgive. This Christmas give a gift which makes a difference. Give forgiveness.

always FAMILIES MATTER

Need ideas to help your family along the journey of life?
Visit the **Families Always Matter** website,
<http://www.ErieRCD.org/fam.htm>

Table Blessings
Prayer Cards by TablePoints

Looking for Advent Activities:

Visit our website: www.olp.org, Faith Formation tab, click on the Advent Family Activities page. There you will find activities that you can do with your family such as:
~Advent Prayer for Lighting of Candles
~Advent Wreath Craft Project
~Names of Jesus...
~and so much more...



Erie City Mission Volunteers Needed

We need your help in preparing and cooking food for our brothers and sisters in need.

Dates are Saturday's:

December 19

Time: 10:00AM to 1:30PM

Where: 11th & French St.

What: Prepare & Serve the Lunch Meal

Time: Any parishioner 15 yrs or older

Contact: Scott Barnes, 881-8889

Qualifies for service hours!