“Christmas isn’t just a temporal celebration or the memory of a beautiful (event); Christmas is more...

Christmas is an encounter!”

~Pope Francis

Our Lady of Peace

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Please see page 7 for the Christmas Mass Schedule

2401 West 38th Street, Erie, PA 16506
Welcome!

Family Discussion of the Week:

Acceptance of God’s Will

Then Mary said, “Here am I, the servant of the Lord’ let it be done to me according to your word.” Then the angel departed from her. (Luke 1:38)

Sunday’s Readings:

First Reading - I will fix a place for my people. (2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16).

Psalm - For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord (Psalm 89).

Second Reading - To the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, be glory forever and ever (Romans 16:25-27).

Gospel - Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word (Luke 1:26-38).


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

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 Toohy
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 Vojtek

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).

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 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

The Sacrament of Reconciliation is celebrated the second and fourth Tuesday of each month, 9-11AM for those living in Millcreek & for OLP Parishioners, at the Westminster Presbyterian Church, 3642 West 26th Street.

The West Millcreek Food Pantry has expressed their heartfelt thanks to all who have continued to make donations.

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.

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

Fourth Sunday of Advent Dec. 20, 2020
The child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God.

—Luke 1:35

The child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God. (Luke 1:35)

Acceptance of God’s Will

Then Mary said, “Here am I, the servant of the Lord’ let it be done to me according to your word.” Then the angel departed from her. (Luke 1:38)

Family Discussion of the Week: Acceptance of God’s Will

Then Mary said, “Here am I, the servant of the Lord’ let it be done to me according to your word.” Then the angel departed from her. (Luke 1:38)

Adults: How do you open your heart to what God wants for you? How do you follow the pathway that leads to happiness?

Kids: Is there something hard you need to do this week? What might make it easier?

The Eternal God

King David wished that the ark of God might have a more permanent home. David may have envisioned something like the cedar palace where he resided. God had in mind something more: a throne where David’s descendants would rule for ever, a kingdom where Jews and Gentiles alike would be welcome.

Mary’s prayerful nature led to an even more disturbing message. She would conceive and bear a Son though she was not yet married. “How can this come about?” Mary wondered. “The Holy Spirit will come upon you,” she was told (Luke 1:35).

Mary’s acceptance of this difficult challenge ushered in this, the final age of God’s reign. What was once a secret known only by chosen people like King David and his descendants must now be made clear to all so that, as Saint Paul wrote to the Romans, we can be brought to the “obedience of faith” according to the command of the eternal God” (Romans 16:26).
**Fourth Sunday of Advent December 20, 2020**

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 * 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**

**Sanctuary Lamp**
- The lamp is burning this week in memory of Anthony Patsy - Daughter.

**Chapel Lamp**
- The lamp is burning this week in memory of Major Tom Carr - Mom, Dad & Sister.

**A Family Perspective**

Two important lessons in today’s gospel speak to anyone who has ever felt afraid or uncertain; stressed or confused. No matter what is happening in your family, remember, “The Lord is with you.” The angel reminds us, “Do not be afraid” for “nothing is impossible with God.”

**Important Note:** The governor’s recent order limiting the size of indoor gatherings does not apply to the celebration of the Mass and other religious services that are explicitly exempt. Masses will continue to be offered at OLP following the guidelines for social distancing and wearing of masks.

**Watch Our Lady of Peace Mass On Our YouTube Channel**
- 7:00AM Weekdays
- 8:00AM Saturdays
- 9:00AM Sundays

Simply go to www.olp.org, scroll down to ‘Find Us on Social Media,’ click on YouTube and you will be connected to our YouTube Channel. Once there you can watch previous Masses and also Subscribe by clicking the red Subscribe button.

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

or by appointment - call the Church Office

**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. 20: Debi C., Kim D., James T., Roseann G., Donna G.
- Dec. 21: George O., Maureen T., Rami S.
- Dec. 22: John G., Sally R., Dianne Y., Gloria M.
- Dec. 23: Heidi A.
- Dec. 24: Mary Ann A., Magherita H., Audrey & Robert H.
- Dec. 25: Christine O.
- Dec. 26: Cynthia B., Dave W., Joe S., Deb T., Corky Y.

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 * 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…

An anticipated Merry Christmas to you! We still have the spiritual work of preparing our hearts to celebrate Christmas for a few more days. The Gospel this weekend presents an image for Advent that I have been praying with this season and had not in the past. The image is Mary’s pregnancy. I was struck more this year with the idea of pregnancy being a wonderful image for Advent because it is all about joyful expectation mixed with some anxiety and discomfort. The image of pregnancy and birth is such a powerful example of the joy, beauty, awe, suffering and difficulty that come with birthing love in the world. I have been asking God for the grace to approach this Christmas with the same hope and excitement that I would have for my own child’s birth. I have also asked for the willingness to accept the pain, suffering and discomfort that might be asked of me in helping Jesus be born in the lives of others through me. I encourage you to pray with this image of pregnancy in these last days of Late Advent.

I hope everyone can approach our Christmas celebration in this unique year with intentional patience and cooperation. A few practical things to review- please note that tickets for Christmas Masses will be available in the church THIS WEEKEND and throughout the week. For a full schedule of Christmas Masses please see page 7 in this bulletin. Remember, only the pre-recorded Mass that will be uploaded at 4pm on Christmas Eve, will have the full music and solemnity of our normal Christmas Masses. All the live Christmas Masses at OLP will have music like we have had the last 6 weeks. All the Christmas Masses will be streamed live in the gym and Holy Communion will be distributed to all who are in the gym for the Masses. For those participating in Mass virtually, Holy Communion will be distributed from 6:15-6:45pm on Christmas Eve as well as 9-9:30am on Christmas Day.

May God bless our last days of Late Advent and our Christmas celebrations 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!

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…

**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. Recall that during COVID we have been having confessions in the chapel with the chairs for face to face or anonymous both 6 feet from the confessor.

**Special Masses This Week**

Monday, December 21st:

**Late Advent Weekday** and St. Peter Canisius, Priest and Doctor of the Church (16th Century Jesuit and called the "second apostle to Germany"); Tuesday, December 22nd and Thursday, December 24th:

**Late Advent Weekday**; Wednesday, December 23rd:

**Late Advent Weekday** and St. John of Kanty, Priest (15th Century philosopher, physicist and theologian from Poland); Friday, December 25th:

**The Nativity of the Lord** (Christmas); December 26th:

**Christmas Octave** and feast of St. Stephan, the First Martyr. **No Mass In Time of Pandemic because weekday Masses of Advent take precedent.**

**Thank you again to Frank and Kathy Eberle** who recently installed the glass covering for the Last Supper Olive Wood Carving from the Holy Land. The handmade display case is now complete and it looks great!

**Christmas Gloria** The Gloria returns to Mass on Christmas Eve as we join the Angels who sang the opening line of the Gloria on that first Christmas Night. Let us prepare to give Glory to God in our Christmas celebrations!

**Christmas Octave** Every year I emphasize the importance of the entire Christmas Octave when we celebrate the truth and joy of Christmas in an intensified way for 8 days liturgically (Dec. 25-Jan.1). All the Masses are celebrated as if it is Christmas day with the Gloria, song and all the decorations. Consider going to an extra Mass or two or engage in other spiritual practices during the Octave to say thank you to God for the blessings of Christmas!

**Christmas Season** The Christmas Season lasts for almost 3 weeks. Highlights include the Feast of the Holy Family (Sunday, December 27th). Mary the Mother of God (Friday, January 1st), the Epiphany (Sunday, January 3rd where we will have the Proclamation of the dates for Easter and other significant dates of the Liturgical Year). The Christmas Season will conclude on the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, Sunday, January 10th. We will have Solemn Evening Prayer with Benediction with the Blessed Sacrament at 6pm (after Adoration from 5:15pm-6pm) on January 10th.

**Parish Calendars** Our parish calendars are in for 2021! I am very grateful to our sponsors-Maleno Development and Real Estate, First National Bank/Manager Chris Hanes, Beer and Pop Warehouse, Cynthia Berarducci, Realtor at Howard Hanna, E.C.C.A INC, and the Knights of Columbus OLP Council 11454.

**Holy Hour for Peace** We will continue the recent tradition here at OLP of ringing in the New Year with Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament from 11pm-12 Midnight on New Year’s Eve (Monday, December 31st). What a great way to start the new year by receiving the Blessing (Benediction) of Jesus through His Eucharistic Presence right at Midnight! We will pray for peace in our world through a litany of peace.

**Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God** is Friday, January 1st and is a holy day of obligation and the last day of the Octave of Christmas. It has also been designated for years as
The World Day of Prayer for Peace. For all those reasons, it is a great day to participate in Mass which will be held at 5:30pm on Thursday, December 31st and 10am on Friday, January 1st.

December 20: (O Clavis David) O KEY OF DAVID, and Scepter of the House of Israel, who opens and no man shuts, who shuts and no man opens: Come, and bring forth the captive from his prison, he who sits in darkness and in the shadow of death. Isaiah 22:22. Symbols: key; broken chains.


December 23: (O Emmanuel) O EMMANUEL. God with us, our King and Lawgiver, the expected of the nations and their Savior: Come to save us, O Lord our God. Isaiah 7:14; 33:22. Symbols: tablets of stone, Chalice and Host.

**65th Anniversary Acts of Kindness and Formation at the time of printing we have completed 3,537 acts of kindness and formation since our anniversary date of September 30th and deadline is Friday, January 1st.

**1 I Give Catholic Campaign Congratulations Our Lady of Peace Parish on an awesome response to I Give Catholic two weeks ago! We officially ended up with 171 donors for $39,867 which both exceeded our goals of 130 and $30,000. We also received two $1,000 awards from the Catholic Foundation of Erie for having the highest number of donors and the highest single donation in the Diocese of Erie. Our grand total was $41,867! Recall that our target for the campaign was to eliminate our $30,000 operational deficit for the present fiscal year. The extra $11,867 will help offset our anticipated offertory deficit due to the pandemic. Not only did our parish receive the highest number of donors and money raised by any institution or ministry in the Diocese of Erie, but we also placed 28th for donors and 43rd for total money raised nationally. Thank you for this wonderful participation and we should all be proud of our OLP spiritual family!

**Parish Excellence Award Another reason for our parish to be proud is that we received a special award during the Parish Excellence Summit which took place in mid-November. “Parish Excellence” is an organization recently established to “recognize parishes who have exemplified mission-driven innovation during the Covid-19 Pandemic.” There were 16 awards given out throughout the summit and Our Lady of Peace received the top award for “Adult Faith Formation via Technology.” We were nominated for this award by Mary Hickin, OLP parishioner and Director of Catechesis and Sacraments in the Faith Formation Office of the Diocese of Erie, and Tammie Mang, the Director of Faith Formation at OLP.

You can watch the video where we are presented the award and the list of all categories and winners at the ParishExcellence.com/awards on our website. We are presented with the award on Day 4 of the Parish Excellence Summit. OLP was awarded based on videos series offered including: “A Walk Through the Windows of Our Lady of Peace Church,” “A Walk Through 40 Catholic Customs” (based on the book, Signs of Life by Scott Hahn), and the “How the Church Changed the World” (based on essays written by Anthony Esolen that appeared in the Magnificat publication from 2013-2017), as well as all our efforts to make other prayer and devotions available throughout the pandemic (novenas, eucharistic adoration, liturgy of the hours, divine mercy chaplets, rosaries, etc.). The video series are still available on our parish website at https://www.olp.org/faith-formation/spiritual-resources if you have not had a chance to view them.

I am grateful to the parish clergy and staff who all helped support and produce these videos- Fr. Mark Hoffman, Deacons John Mang, Joe Yochim and Glenn Bailey, Brian Kuzmin, Cynthia Berarducci, and Mary Beth Whitman. A special thank you goes out to Mike Cooney who edited the Walk Through the Windows (which made that series clearly the most professional!).

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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.olph.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.

FORMED provides amazing content for you to grow and explore your faith. It’s FREE and EASY to Register!
- Go to olp.formed.org (this is the code to use if necessary: 8GQD8J)
- Click “Register” and enter your name, email address, and desired password
You’re all ready to access the inspiring and engaging content on FORMED!

OLP Items for Sale:
Water Bottles
and
Face Masks
$5.00 each

Advertiser of the Week:
Our bulletin is supported through the generosity of the advertisers - many of whom are our parishioners. Most are members of our local community. Please support our advertisers with your patronage. Tell the business owner that you appreciate their support of our parish through their ad in the bulletin.
**MONDAY, December 21, 2020**
- 7:00AM Patrick McLaughlin – 7AM Mass Group
- 12:10PM Richard Notaro – Family

**WEDNESDAY, December 23, 2020**
- 7:00AM Irene Bien – Letizo Family
- 11:30-Noon Confessions
- 12:10PM Rose Buto – Family

**TUESDAY, December 22, 2020**
- 7:00AM Alex Horwath – Jean Verdecchia
- 12:10PM Mary Ann Toohey – Michael & Denise Gaines
- 1:30PM School Mass – Deceased Members of the Barboni Family – Ehrman Family

**THURSDAY, December 24, 2020**
- 7:00AM Edward & Eleanor Chimenti – EJ & Judy Johns

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**Christmas Mass Schedule**

**THURSDAY, December 24, 2020**
- Christmas Eve
  - 5:00PM Peggy Pulice – Family
  - 7:30PM Dennis Drake – Wife, Linda
  - Midnight 12:00AM Parishioners

**FRIDAY, December 25, 2020**
- The Nativity of the Lord – Christmas
  - 8:00AM Willard Passauer – Mary Yeaneq
  - 10:00AM Michael & Mary Ann Fetzer – Tom & June Carr

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**SATURDAY, December 26, 2020**
- 8:00AM Gertrude Milkowski – Daughter, Nancy
- 5:00PM Charles Gerbracht – Sally Barrett

**MONDAY, December 28, 2020**
- 7:00AM Ann Cuzzola – Family
- 12:10PM Larry & Patricia Smith – Family

**WEDNESDAY, December 30, 2020**
- 7:00AM Marcy Lubin – Family
- 12:10PM Dorothy Crajka – Sister

**THURSDAY, December 31, 2020**
- 7:00AM Bernard Wiercinski – Jean Verdecchia
- 12:10PM Josephine Przybycin – Fred & Evelyn Fried

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**NEW YEAR’S MASS SCHEDULE**

**THURSDAY, December 31, 2020**
- Vigil: Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God
  - 5:30PM Marian Mong – Sister, Lorraine Trampenau & Family

**FRIDAY, January 1, 2021**
- Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God
  - 10:00AM Parishioners

All Christmas Masses will be live-streamed on our YouTube Channel.
Catholics VOTE to Protect the Unborn.

Paid for by Catholics For Truth - CatholicsForTruth.us
FEAST OF FAITH — Gathering

When Pope Benedict XVI visited the United States in 2008, tens of thousands gathered in Yankee Stadium to celebrate the Eucharist with him. What made them different from all the other excited crowds who have assembled there through the years? When they began to sing together, to listen together, to pray together, they ceased to be a crowd, and became a liturgical assembly. It was not where they were but what they did that set them apart.

The Gospels speak of many instances when Jesus prayed alone to his Father. But Jesus also put a special value on communal prayer. “Where two or three are gathered together in my name,” he told his disciples, “there am I in the midst of them” (Matthew 18:20). Jesus gave his own mission to his followers, sending them forth to do everything he did: to heal, to teach, to proclaim the kingdom. Jesus wants us to meet God in and through each other. So the Christian community continues to gather, Sunday after Sunday. When we get up on Sunday morning and come to Mass, we respond to Jesus’ invitation, and we express our trust in his promise that whenever we come together, he comes, too.

—Corinna Laughlin, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

OUR LADY OF PEACE BIBLE STUDY PRESENTS

NO GREATER LOVE: A BIBLICAL WALK THROUGH CHRIST’S PASSION

Led by Edward Sri and filmed on location in the Holy Land, No Greater Love is a biblical pilgrimage that shows Christ’s amazing love for us as we walk with Him through the last hours of His life.

When: Tuesday nights, 7:00 to 8:30PM
January 12, 2021 to February 9, 2021
Where: Our Lady of Peace Church

Streaming access online for a 1 year period through Ascension Press

This is a 5-week Bible Study offered both in person and online.
There will be a DVD presentation in the Church, followed by one large group discussion.
Those who choose online streaming are welcome to join in the discussion via Facebook.

Register for material through ascensionpress.com or call 1-800-376-0520.
Cost is $24.95 plus shipping, which includes one book, one workbook and online access.
Individuals in one household can share online access.

Please drop off or mail registration form to:
Our Lady of Peace Church, 2401 W. 38th Street, Erie, PA 16506
Attn: OLP Bible Study

Any questions, please call Mary Beth Whitman, Parish Office: 833-7701 ext. 202
No previous experience necessary. All are welcome.

Our Lady of Peace Bible Study: No Greater Love

Name ____________________________________________
Address _________________________________________ Zip ______________
Phone __________________________ Parish ________________
Email ________________________________

Please specify: Tuesday night (in person) ________________________________
Online streaming (Facebook discussion) ________________________________
Combination of both in person and online participation _____________________

Special Collection Last Weekend for the Retirement Fund for Religious

Thanks for giving! “We are conscious of the great generosity of the many benefactors who support the Retirement Fund for Religious each year,” Says a Catholic sister. “Support from the fund has been a tremendous blessing to our retired sisters.”
Thank you for donating to last weekend’s second collection.