



# *Our Lady of Peace*

*A sower went out to sow.*

Matthew 13:1-23



July 16, 2023

*Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time*

2401 West 38th Street, Erie, PA 16506

**Parish Office Phone**  
814-833-7701  
**Fax**  
814-833-7702  
**Website**  
www.olp.org  
**E-mail**  
olp@olp.org  
**Faith Formation Office**  
814-838-9983  
**Office Hours:** 8:00AM - 8:00PM  
**Business Hours:** 8:00AM - 4:00PM

**School Principal**  
Ms. Shivani Suri  
**School Phone**  
814-838-3548  
**School Website**  
www.eriecatholic.org/olp

**Parish Pastoral Team**  
**Pastor**

Rev. Rich Toohey  
(fr.rich@olp.org)

**Parochial Vicar**

Rev. Daniel Hoffman  
**Priest in Residence**

Rev. Shane Mathew

**Permanent Deacons**

Rev. Mr. John Mang

**Music/Liturgy Director**

Mr. Brian Kuzmin

**Faith Formation Director**

Mrs. Tammie Mang

**Office Manager**

Mrs. Mary Beth Whitman

**Office Secretary**

Mrs. Cynthia Berarducci

**Coordinator of Youth Ministry**

Miss Sarah Beaver

**Maintenance Supervisor**

Mr. Michael Przepierski

**Pastoral Council President**

Mr. Justin Miles

**Finance Council Chairman**

Mr. Paul Vojtek

**The Sacrament of Baptism** is celebrated the 1st & 3rd Sunday of each month at 12:30PM. A mandatory preparation class for parents is available. *Call the office for info.*

**Sacrament of Matrimony** An appointment with a parish priest six months prior to the wedding date.

**Sacrament of Reconciliation**  
Wednesdays 11:15AM-12:00PM  
Saturdays 8:30-9AM; 3:45-4:45PM  
or by appointment.

**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.**

**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 always needed.

**July 2023**

16th Meals in a Box / Rice

23rd Canned Tuna/Salmon/Chicken

30th Pasta Sauce / Pasta



**Pantry is OPEN July 11th & 25th**

**(every 2nd & 4th Tuesday) 9-11AM for those living in Millcreek & for OLP Parishioners, at**

**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
- Pet Food
- Laundry Supplies
- Toilet Tissue/Kleenex
- Paper Towels/Napkins
- Personal Hygiene Items
- Reusable Grocery Bags

**Thank you!**

**The OLP Prayer Ministry**

This is a ministry for those individuals who are unable to attend usual parish functions perhaps due to an impairment, lack of transportation or illness. This active ministry can be done from home, a nursing home, the hospital, etc. Those who participate are asked to voluntarily pray for a specific group, ministry or function as the meeting, ministry or function is occurring. Prayer is vital to our lives and keeps us connected as members of the Body of Christ.

For more info, contact: Deacon John Mang at [deacon.john@olp.org](mailto:deacon.john@olp.org) or Tammie Mang, Faith Formation Office, at 814-838-9983.

**Sunday's Readings:**

**Entrance Antiphon** - As for me, in justice I shall behold your face; / I shall be filled with the vision of your glory.

**First Reading** - My word will achieve the end for which it was sent (Isaiah 55:10-11).

**Psalm** - Much fruit is produced by the seed that falls on fertile soil (Psalm 65).

**Second Reading** - We, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan within ourselves awaiting the redemption of our bodies (Romans 8:18-23).

**Gospel** - Some seed fell on rich soil and produced fruit (Matthew 13:1-23 [1-9]).

**Family Discussion of the Week: Seeds of Faith**

Jesus said, "Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty." (Matthew 13:7-8)

**Adults:** How do you provide "good soil" for the faith of others to grow?

**Kids:** What are you doing to help the seeds of your faith grow each day?

**THE LIFE CYCLE OF THE SEED**

Here in the middle of summer, many people grow vegetable and flower gardens, or appreciate the work of others by buying produce from roadside stands and farmer's markets. All our readings today embrace one of God's smallest but most common miracles as a metaphor: the seed and its cycle, and all that it stands for. Isaiah reminds us that just as God waters the earth and cares for it so that seeds may grow, so the Word of God will come and not return to God until it has borne fruit. Psalm 65 describes the cycle of growth and personifies fields that "shout for joy." Romans has "creation groaning in labor pains" as it waits for its seed to come to fruition, redemption of the body. Similarly, Jesus teaches the crowds by using the parable of the sower and the seed.

# MASS INTENTIONS

**MONDAY, JULY 17, 2023**

7:00AM Marge (Ward) Wojtkielewicz - Family  
 12:10PM Beverly Schnell - Kevin Helsley Family

**TUESDAY, JULY 18, 2023**

7:00AM Betty Maloney - Loretta & Craig Schaal  
 12:10PM Chuck Rohrbach - Denise & Michael Gaines

**WEDNESDAY, JULY 19, 2023**

7:00AM Lillian Przepierski - Family  
 11:15-Noon Confessions  
 12:10PM Mary Beth Smogorzewski - Dietz Family

**THURSDAY, JULY 20, 2023**

7:00AM Delores Hartle - Old Family  
 12:10PM Dave Mohr - Dietz Family

**FRIDAY, JULY 21, 2023**

7:00AM Marie Pears - Gina Adams  
 12:10PM Barb Reinhold - Kevin Helsley Family

**SATURDAY, JULY 22, 2023**

8:00AM Z. Marion Zaczekiewicz - Son, Jim  
 8:30-9:00AM Confessions  
 3:45-5:45PM Confessions  
 5:00PM Rich Young - Corky Young

**SUNDAY, JULY 23, 2023**

**Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

7:30AM Living & Deceased Members of OLP  
 9:00AM Patricia Smith - Children  
 11:00AM Geraldine "Gerri" Locastro Porfilio - Sam & Wendy Aquillano  
 4:30PM Henry Kwiatkowski - Daughter, Joan  
 The church will remain open for private prayer Monday through Thursday from 7:00AM - 8:00PM and Friday 7:00AM - 4:00PM  
**Confessions available:**  
 Wednesdays 11:15-Noon  
 Saturday 8:30-9:00AM and 3:45-4:45PM or by appointment - call the Church Office

**PRAYERS FOR THE DECEASED** - Please pray for Marilyn Schlecht; and for Genevieve Donofrio. May their families find hope and consolation through their faith in the resurrected Lord.

**SANCTUARY LAMP** - The lamp is burning this week in memory of Deceased Members of the Kenwood Family - Joan Francis.  
**CHAPEL LAMP** - The lamp is burning this week in memory of Rosemary Clugston - Daughter.

**Daily at 11:40AM**  
 The Rosary of the Most Blessed Virgin Mary is prayed daily prior to the 12:10 Mass. Mary invites all her children to pray her Rosary. Also, the Chaplet of Divine Mercy is prayed following the 12:10 Mass in the Chapel. **All are welcome!**



*Readings for the Week of July 16th*

Monday: Ex 1:8-14, 22; Ps 124:1b-8; Mt 10:34 — 11:1  
 Tuesday: Ex 2:1-15a; Ps 69:3, 14, 30-31, 33-34; Mt 11:20-24  
 Wednesday: Ex 3:1-6, 9-12; Ps 103:1b-4, 6-7; Mt 11:25-27  
 Thursday: Ex 3:13-20; Ps 105:1, 5, 8-9, 24-27; Mt 11:28-30  
 Friday: Ex 11:10 — 12:14; Ps 116:12-13, 15, 16bc, 17-18; Mt 12:1-8  
 Saturday: Sg 3:1-4b or 2 Cor 5:14-17; Ps 136:1, 23-24, 10-15; Jn 20:1-2, 11-18  
 Sunday: Wis 12:13, 16-19; Ps 86:5-6, 9-10, 15-16; Rom 8:26-27; Mt 13:24-43 [24-30]

**BANN II**  
 Nick Muller / Abby Alward

**A Family Perspective**  
 The stress and anxieties of family life are like "thorns which choke off" any opportunity to reflect on God's presence in our lives. Notice in today's gospel Jesus "went out of the house" so He could connect with the people he loved. Grasp five minutes each day to appreciate the people you love.

**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:**  
 July 16: Dee Dee B., Kathi K., Laura D., Kevin D.  
 July 17: Len & Cathy K, Helen W., Barbra W., Nancy D.  
 July 18: Carlee Y., Rachel O.  
 July 19: Amber D, Chris L.  
 July 20: Debi C., Kim D., James T., Roseann G., Donna G.  
 July 21: George O., Maureen T., Rami S.  
 July 22: John G., Sally R., Dianne Y., Gloria M.  
 July 23: Heidi A.  
*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...

This is "OLP Serves" Promotion Weekend! We will also read the 2<sup>nd</sup> letter from Bishop Persico to the Catholic Church of Erie County. Please see below in my notes for more information on both of these.

I share updates on other happenings in our parish...

- Welcome to Our Lady of Peace, Fr. Dan Hoffman! Fr. Dan is a native son of OLP who graduated from OLP in the late 1990s, entered seminary in the early 2000s and was ordained a priest for the Diocese of Erie in 2009. He then earned a degree in Canon Law at the Catholic University of America. After that he spent several years at St. Luke Parish, Our Lady of the Lake in Edinboro, and the last year as pastor of a cluster of parishes out in McKean County in central PA. Please help me in welcoming Fr. Dan to OLP. He will be at all Masses this weekend to greet people and there will be coffee and donuts after the 9am and 11am Masses.
- Bishop Persico has given permission to return to the communal distribution of the Precious Blood at Masses in the Diocese of Erie. At OLP, the Precious Blood will be available at the 9am and 11am Masses starting Sunday, August 6th. We hope to eventually make it available at the Saturday evening and 7:30am Sunday Masses if we have enough ministers to help with the distribution.
- Properties Update:
  - ◇ The stain glass windows are complete. I have heard a lot of positive comments as far as the exterior and interior impact so thank you again for supporting our CSA 2023.
  - ◇ We recently completed the last project from our CSA 2022, delayed due to shipping issues. The new hardware for the church doors was installed including electrical locking which was recommended by the Safety Committee. The new hardware gets our doors up to code as well as being more secure. Additionally, more cameras were installed in the church to allow for broader video coverage.
  - ◇ We are working to get handrails installed in the church sanctuary to allow greater accessibility for our ministers and others entering the altar area. We will fund this project through donations from Erie Gives 2023, which takes place on Tuesday, August 8<sup>th</sup> from 8am-8pm. Last year we were able to raise \$26,300 for renovations to the social room. Our goal for this year is \$25,000 for renovations to the sanctuary that increases the accessibility to the altar. Look for more details in the coming weeks.

May God bless our week 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...

**\*\*OLP Serves** On August 19th, teams of volunteers from OLP will be sent to serve other members of our parish by completing small projects and work around their homes that they are unable to do on their own. This is a model that our parish has participated in over the years through Young People Who Care (YPWC) in Frenchville as well as Catholic Heart Work Camps throughout the country and ServErie throughout the city. Members of our Parish Outreach Committee thought it would be great to apply this model to serve the needs of our own parish community. So, this weekend we are asking you to help us in one of three ways:

**One-** Help us identify projects that fellow parishioners might need assistance with. People are not always comfortable asking for help, so your help is needed in identifying who we could offer to help.

**Two-** Volunteer for Saturday, Aug. 19th, 8:30AM to 4:00PM.

**Three-** Make a donation to cover the cost of supplies and materials for those parishioners who might need help purchasing their supplies. Donations should be dropped at the office and labeled OLP Serves.

OLP Serves is a great way to help our parish grow as a community and to grow in grace by serving and being willing to be served. Please join me in praying for this initiative and considering in what ways you can be a part of it.

### **\*\*Bishop Persico Letters to Erie County Parishes and Pastoral Letter on Pastoral Planning to the entire Diocese of Erie**

Bishop Persico's 2<sup>nd</sup> letter to all Catholics of Erie County is being read at all Masses THIS WEEKEND and is included in the bulletin. To read the letter visit the microsite created by the Diocese ([www.eriercd.org/planning-letters.html](http://www.eriercd.org/planning-letters.html)).

The Bishop's overall Pastoral Letter to the entire diocese regarding the pastoral planning was released on June 7, 2023 and can be found at [www.eriercd.org/images/pdf/PastoralPlanningLetter\\_June2023C.pdf](http://www.eriercd.org/images/pdf/PastoralPlanningLetter_June2023C.pdf). This was only the 2<sup>nd</sup> pastoral letter Bishop Persico has written to the entire diocese during his term of service (11 years) so it is important that you read it.

**\*\*Special Masses this Week** *Monday, July 17<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday, July 19<sup>th</sup>*- Weekdays in Ordinary Time; *Tuesday, July 18<sup>th</sup>*- St. Camillus de Lillis- 16<sup>th</sup> Century Italian addicted gambler and soldier converted to priest; *Thursday, July 20<sup>th</sup>*- St. Apollinaris, 1<sup>st</sup> Century Bishop and Martyr ordained by St. Peter; *Friday, July 21<sup>st</sup>*- St. Lawrence Brindisi, 17<sup>th</sup> Century Capuchin and Doctor of the Church; *Saturday, July 22<sup>nd</sup>*- St. Mary Magdalene.

**\*\*OLP Raffle** Thank you to all who have gotten your tickets back already. So far 226 of the 1,900 registered families have supported the raffle. Remember, the OLP Raffle is the main fundraiser of the parish and supports programming, ministries and keeps the lights on and the a/c running. If each family sells just two tickets, we can reach and surpass our goal of 3,800 tickets and provide for the needs of the parish for the new fiscal year (2023/2024). Every ticket sold helps. Need more tickets, stop by the church office.

**\*\*Parish/School Movie Nights Wednesday, August 23<sup>rd</sup>. Encanto at dusk.** The movie is shown on the south OLP gym wall. Bring your chairs/blankets; drinks/popcorn available for purchase.

**\*\*Our Lady of Peace Feast Day** July 9th is one of the non-universal feast days for Mary under our parish title, Mary, Queen of Peace, or Our Lady of Peace (as well as January 24<sup>th</sup>). For this reason, I had proposed this date to be our parish patronal feast day and have communicated to you as well as some of our parish leaders over the past few years (and to the diocese as they have been re-creating a diocesan calendar of feast days and asking for our feast day). Unfortunately, I have not been at peace with that decision (no pun intended), as the middle of summer is a challenging time to gather the parish for events around the feast date. So, recently I proposed another option to our parish leadership team, staff and liturgy committee and they agreed to commit to August 22<sup>nd</sup> as our new official feast day. There are several reasons I am more at peace with this date:

**One-** It is a universal feast day of Mary that gets quite overlooked so it will help us give more focus to this already established feast.

**Two-** It is also a Mystery of the Rosary, the 5<sup>th</sup> Glorious Mystery, the Coronation of Mary as Queen of Heaven and Earth, which will give us a greater connection to the Rosary.

**Three-** It is a week after the Assumption of Mary into Heaven (August 15<sup>th</sup>) and so is the last day of this unofficial octave of Mary that happens every August which again often gets overlooked (other than the Assumption itself).

**Four-** It provides a spiritual compliment to our annual parish picnic which is always the Saturday after Labor Day and has become our biggest communal event of the year.

This year, we will have a prayer event on Tuesday, August 22<sup>nd</sup> and more info will be coming soon.

**\*\*Photo of Our Lady of Peace in the Church** I share with you the info that will be put next to the picture of Our Lady of Peace from the main school entrance. It was framed by the Parish Rosary Society and blessed on December 8, 2022:

- The picture is based on the sculpture in St. Mary Major Basilica in Rome.
- The sculpture was commissioned by Pope Benedict XV in thanksgiving for the end of the First World War and completed by Roman artist Guido Galli in 1918, a marble statue of Mary enthroned is perched high against the wall.
- Beneath the statue is the simple inscription, "Ave Regina Pacis" (Hail, Queen of Peace).
- Mary's left hand is raised up and out to the world in a gesture of "Basta! Enough! Stop the war and violence!"
- In her right arm, she holds Christ depicted as a small child dangling an olive branch, a symbol of peace, waiting for His mother's word to allow it to fall from His fingers and descend to the world.
- A dove, another symbol of peace, sits beside the throne (hidden just out of the frame) preparing to fly, one wing already raised and eyes fixed intently on the branch in Christ's hand.
- Mary's eyes look down, meeting the gaze of the viewer below.
- The image conveys a strong sense of the centrality of Mary's intercessory role in the life of the Church: the dove waits for the branch to descend; the branch waits for Christ to release it; Christ waits on the word of His mother.
- The image also invites us into a deeper message of peace: Mary herself waits upon us.

## FAITH FORMATION NEWS

Registration forms for the 2023-24 Faith Formation year are now available on our website under the Faith Formation tab. Confirmation registration forms for grades 9 and 10 can be found on the Confirmation page. Forms were emailed to current Faith Formation families. Please let us know if you did not receive the email.

While the family is the first place our children learn the faith, faith formation classes deepen your child's understanding of God's love and mercy. The program at OLP is designed to support you in sharing Catholic teachings and accompany the whole family on their faith journey.

If your child is not enrolled in a catholic school, take a minute and register for the 2023-2024 Faith Formation program and journey together with us learning about and growing in the Catholic faith.

We are now accepting registrations for **Vacation Bible School (VBS)** from those students entering Kindergarten – 5<sup>th</sup> grade this fall.

The theme of VBS 2023 is

*"Cathletics. . . training to be champions for Christ."*

The cost is \$20 per child or \$25 per family; which includes snacks each day as well as crafts and supplies. Please complete one form per child.

Registration forms can be found on the website, [olp.org](http://olp.org) under the Faith Formation tab on the Vacation Bible School page.

For more info please contact Tammie Mang, Faith Formation Director, 814-838-9983 or [Tammie.mang@olp.org](mailto:Tammie.mang@olp.org)

The Ushers and the Knights of Columbus are hosting the:

# Men's Picnic

## ALL MEN



of the parish are invited!

*You do not have to be an Usher or a Knight to attend;*

**WEDNESDAY, August 9, 2023**

**5:00PM**

*Held at the*

*Our Lady of Peace*

*Parish Pavilion*

*More details to follow...*



July 15, 2023



Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

As we discuss pastoral planning for parishes in Erie County, please keep in mind that the work before us today is building a strong foundation that will carry us through some lean years ahead. But at the same time, it is being accomplished to help create a brighter and sustainable future for the Catholic Church in northwest Pennsylvania.

Before we begin talking about change for the parishes in Erie County, it's important for you to understand the situation some of our sisters and brothers in other counties of the diocese are experiencing.

If the preliminary changes proposed for the Bradford area are approved, for example, parishioners in that area would go from having nine parishes to seven and from having ten priests to eight. They would also go from having one church without Sunday Mass to four without Sunday Mass.

In a similar way, the preliminary plan for the Clearfield area proposes they go from eight parishes to six and from six priests to five. The number of churches that don't have Sunday Mass would grow from zero to three. Parishioners in the Oil City area would go from having 11 parishes to 10, from three churches without Sunday Mass to five and from 10 priests to eight. Please remember these are proposed changes; nothing has been set in stone. But we also are in the position of having to say we cannot promise that we will have even that many priests to serve those areas in the next three to five years.

If these proposed changes go into effect, depending on the feedback we incorporate, people in the affected parishes would face significant travel times. Someone who has been attending Mass at Sacred Heart of Genesee for example, would be looking at a 20-minute, 24-mile drive to Coudersport each way. For Erie County Catholics, that would be as though parishioners at Holy Cross in Fairview had to travel to Our Lady of Mercy in Harborcreek for Sunday Mass, encountering no other parishes in between.

By virtue of the distances between their towns, parishioners outside of Erie County already are experiencing hardship in order to attend Sunday Mass. We have no choice but to begin reallocating clergy so that we can meet the needs of everyone in this, the largest diocese, geographically, in Pennsylvania.

Let's think about this information from a spiritual perspective. Preaching on the parable of Lazarus and the rich man, St. John Chrysostom said this: "Not to share our own riches with the poor is a robbery of the poor, and depriving them of their livelihood" and that which we possess is not only our own, but also theirs." From Jesus Christ to Pope Francis in our own day, and with any number of saints between them, our faith has taught us that to live in abundance while others go without and to call that abundance "necessary," is not just.

When we weigh all the information together – the waning number of worshippers, fewer priests in the immediate future, the number of church buildings, their capacities and upkeep costs . . . and the distance between church buildings – it is not difficult to see that the people of Erie County are going to have to make some adjustments.

I'd like to share one other piece of information that I believe should give us pause. If we draw a circle with a ten-mile radius around St. Peter Cathedral in Erie today, we find there are 26 churches offering 68 anticipated and Sunday Masses. And as you know, a good portion of that circle goes out over the lake.

Pastoral planning is not a business decision. It is a matter of justice and love. We need to trust as we relinquish that which is truly not necessary.

I know most of you understand that to belong to a parish isn't about "me" while my neighbor's parish isn't just about "them." Nor is the diocese separate from any parish. The diocese is "us," and every parish is part of "us." As St. Paul teaches us, discipleship only works when we think of ourselves as a body united, with Christ as our head. Now and in the future, we need to think and act as a body does, cooperating and collaborating together as one. We must be conscious of the diocese as a whole, moving forward with generosity, trust and hope.

Thank you for your attention to this information. You can find more on the pastoral planning microsite available through a link on the diocesan homepage at [www.eriercd.org](http://www.eriercd.org). Please keep the diocese, its clergy, women and men religious and lay faithful in your prayers as we prepare to enter more fully into another round of pastoral planning.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+Lawrence T. Persico

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

## Deacon Luke Dagher Article 3 of 8 on the Eucharist

*Editor's Note:* These columns this summer will explore the thought of St. Thomas Aquinas on the Eucharist through nature, landmarks, and other aspects in the Erie area. As the American Church enters deeper into the Eucharistic Revival (stage 2 - *Year of Parish Revival*) and Our Lady of Peace prepares for the series on *Mass to Mission*, this writing series will help to support both.



*Aquinas, Erie Restaurants, the Eucharist and Sustenance for the Journey*

The Erie area is blessed with many restaurants both on the East and West sides. When I first began at St. Mark's Seminary and Gannon University in 2018, I often thought that if someone went to a different restaurant every day in the Erie area it would take a long time to go to every place.

When I ask people from Erie, "where would you say is your favorite place to go out to eat?" the response is often, "I have to think about that for a second." In fact, in Googling how many restaurants are in the Erie area, the website *Allmenus* displays "367 restaurants found in Erie and nearby." There are simply a lot of places to go out to eat around Erie.

Try for a second and visualize the 300+ restaurants that are within the Erie area. Then think of how many people go to be fed and nourished to strengthen their bodies. Then think of how many people, after being nourished, go on to their differing journeys.

For Aquinas, the great metaphor for the Eucharist is sustenance or food for the journey. Aquinas believed that the Eucharist, in a similar way as food sustains a person's body, sustains a person's soul by providing spiritual nourishment. Aquinas wrote that the Eucharist "does for the spiritual life all that (corporeal) food does for the bodily life, namely, by sustaining, giving increase, restoring, and giving delight."

In reflecting on John Chapter 6, *The Last Supper Discourse*, Aquinas wrote about the difference between food that sustains the body (corporeal food) and food that sustains the soul (spiritual food). Aquinas saw corporeal food that sustains the body as perishable because it is eventually converted into the body. However, concerning the spiritual food of the Eucharist that sustains the soul, it is not perishable. The spiritual food of the Eucharist does not change into the person's soul; rather, the soul converts into the spiritual food. For Aquinas, the Eucharist helps in transforming us into Christ.

In a similar way as people go to restaurants in Erie to be fed and nourished, let us approach the Eucharist with a hungry heart that asks God to spiritually feed us with the nourishment He is capable of providing. As Our Lady of Peace prepares for the series *Mass to Mission* that will begin this fall, think about how Jesus has given us the Eucharist as spiritual food to help nourish and sustain us for spiritual journey and mission. Jesus nourishes us with Himself to strengthen and sustain us for the missions He is calling us to serve in.

-Deacon Luke Dagher

Information from Aquinas' Commentary on the Gospel of John Chapter 6 and Summary of Theology: III, Questions 73, 74 and 79. Picture from [sarasandsallys.com](http://sarasandsallys.com)



## Our Lady of Peace Parish Membership Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_


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

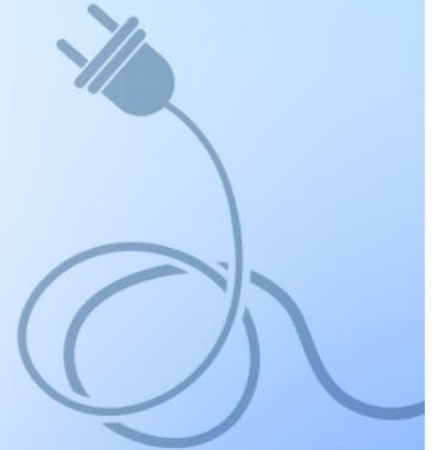
CHECK ONE:

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

# Get Connected

NEW TO THE PARISH? WANT TO GET INVOLVED BY NOT SURE HOW?

- Register your family with the parish
- Check out the "events" page on our website, [www.olp.org](http://www.olp.org)
- Sign up for our weekly newsletter on our website or call the office at 814-833-7701 for help.
- Download myPairsh App by texting APP to 88202. Select Our Lady of Peace, Erie PA 
- Check out the great Catholic content on FORMED. Register through the website [www.olp.org](http://www.olp.org) by clicking on the FORMED image. Enter your name & email and create a password.



### OLP Youth Serving the Poor at the Emmaus Soup Kitchen

For the past 23 years, Our Lady of Peace confirmation candidates have served at the Emmaus Soup Kitchen, a ministry of the Benedictine Sisters in downtown Erie. In 2020, due to the pandemic, the requirement to serve at the kitchen changed to a voluntary service opportunity. As a result, we have seen an decrease in the number of our young people signing up to assist in this vital service.

This is an invitation to our high school youth in grades 10 through 12 to help the needy and continue this tradition. Summer is the perfect opportunity for you to help and if you need service hours, a great way to get this done before you return to school in the fall.

#### Help is needed on the following dates:

Thursday, July 20th, Thursday, August 17th, Monday, August 21st  
*Time of service is from 3:00 to 6:00PM each of these days.*

Please contact Darrell Meyers, 814-450-3697 or [darrell.meyers@olp.org](mailto:darrell.meyers@olp.org) for more info or to sign up.

### 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:

Aug. 19, Sept. 16, Oct. 21, Nov. 18, Dec. 16

**Time:** 9:45AM to 1:00PM

**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!

# Advertiser of the Week:

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## OUR FASCINATING FAITH

### The Second Vatican Council—By Whose Authority?

There have been twenty-one ecumenical (or “universal”) councils in the history of the Catholic Church. The canons, constitutions, and decrees that they produce are to be recognized by all members of the Church. All the documents of the Second Vatican Council were passed by the Fathers of the Council and promulgated in the Pope’s name. Thus they carry the authority of the Pope himself. Four of the Vatican II documents are “constitutions.” They bear the highest degree of papal authority; this kind of document can define dogmas, create or change Church law, or establish Church structures. Nine of the conciliar documents are “decrees.” They are authoritative pronouncements on specific areas of Church life, and derive their authority from the four constitutions. Three of the Council’s documents are classified as “declarations.” They can be seen as position statements on certain topics, urging the clergy and the faithful to action in those areas.

The Second Vatican Council has been called a “pastoral” council, in part to distinguish it from other councils whose work has been seen by some to be more theological or juridical. This does not in any way diminish the authority or theological weight of Vatican II’s pronouncements, which are equal to those of any other ecumenical council in the history of the Church.

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### Catholic Prayer Corner

#### Act of Hope

O my God, relying  
on your almighty power and  
infinite mercy and promises,  
I hope to obtain pardon of my sins,  
the help of your grace,  
and life everlasting,  
through the merits of Jesus Christ,  
my Lord and Redeemer.

### The Crux Bible Study

The theme of the Bible study will be *The Crux* or “the central theme” of the scriptures. The Bible study will be held at Our Lady of Peace in the School Cafeteria. Two times are available each week.

The Bible study will be led by Deacon Luke Dagher.

#### Schedule:

Wednesdays from 7-8pm	Lesson Theme	Thursdays from 10:30-11:30am
July 19th	*No Bible Study this week (Catholic Heart Workcamp)	July 20th
July 26th	<i>The Covenant Family of God</i> Uniting the story of salvation	July 27th
August 2nd	<i>The Prodigal Son</i> From the perspective of a first-century Jew	August 3rd

Those attending may bring their own bible. However, there will be bibles available that match with page numbers of the program.

For those who are interested and/or are planning on attending the series please RSVP with the parish staff. If there are students who are younger than 18 years of age and/or are in high school, who would like to attend the Bible study, will need to be accompanied by an adult.

#### Contact for RSVP:

Our Lady of Peace Parish Office: (814) 833-7701

\*The painting is of the story of the Prodigal Son by Rembrandt which will be explored on the last day of the Bible study.



*Anniversary Celebrations  
for couples celebrating  
25th, 40th, 50th, 60th or more  
Wedding Anniversaries in 2023  
Sunday, August 6, 2023  
Our Lady of Peace Church  
2401 West 38th Street., Erie  
2:00PM  
Register by July 21st  
either online at:  
[www.eriecd.org/familylifeoffice/  
anniv.html](http://www.eriecd.org/familylifeoffice/anniv.html)  
or call Cynthia in the Church  
office at 814-833-7701 x 0*

*Reception to follow in School Cafeteria  
Happy Anniversary!*

## All Volunteers Welcome Sunday Supper Mission Meal served at First Presbyterian Church

We need your help in preparing,  
cooking and feeding our brothers and  
sisters in need.

**Planning Meeting:** Wednesday August 2, 7PM

**Where:** OLP Church Meeting Room

**What:** Select Menu and volunteer for tasks

**Who:** Any parishioner 15+ years

**Date to Serve:** Sunday August 13th,  
4:00-5:30pm

**Contact:** Pete Piotrowski, 814-600-5386  
or Debbie Piotrowski, 814-812-0122



## ST. PATRICK'S HAVEN

Thank you for the generous support for the St. Patrick's Haven Meal Crew. Your support helps us to continue providing nutritious meals to the men at St. Patrick's Haven on a monthly basis. Your kindness and care for those in need in our community are greatly appreciated.

~Tom Sargent and the St. Patrick's Haven Crew



## Quo Vadis Days



**JOIN US FOR OUR  
SUMMER PRIESTHOOD  
DISCERNMENT CAMP,  
JULY 30-AUGUST 2, 2023**

### Meet Our Seminarians

Quo Vadis Days is a seminarian-led 3-night, 4-day retreat for Catholic young men in grades 9-12. Participants will have the opportunity to interact with other young men who are currently in various stages of seminary formation and learn about their discernment journeys.

### Pray Together

Held at St. Mark Seminary in Erie, PA, this unique discernment event affords participants the opportunity to pray with Bishop Persico and other priests and seminarians. Daily Mass, Eucharistic Adoration, Liturgy of the Hours, Reconciliation, and spiritual direction are just a few of the prayer experiences that will be available.

### Have Fun

Because Quo Vadis Days are all about experiencing the joy of Christian discipleship, there will be plenty of time each day for fun and fellowship. Outdoor games, team-building activities, bonfires, and a chance to explore Erie's beautiful Presque Isle are just a few of the adventures that await participants.

**COST \$50**  
**TO REGISTER ONLINE:**  
**ERIEVOCATIONS.ORG**  
**DEADLINE TO REGISTER: JULY 21**



For More Information:

**Fr. Scott Jabo,**  
**Director of Priestly Vocations**  
**(814) 824-1198**  
**SWJabo@eried.org**



## SERVERIE

SUMMER PROJECT

Building relationships through volunteering in the Erie community by connecting volunteers with agencies in need.

Volunteers Needed for:

July 20th 8am - Noon or 1pm - 5pm

July 21st 8am - Noon or 1pm - 5pm

July 22nd 8am-Noon

Register at [serverie.com](http://serverie.com).

For more information contact Darrell Meyers, OLP ServErie liason at [darrell.meyers@olp.org](mailto:darrell.meyers@olp.org) or 814-450-3697



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**majesty**

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