



# Our Lady of Peace

“BEHOLD, I AM THE HANDMAID OF THE LORD.

*May it be done to me according  
to your word.”*

Luke 1:26-38

**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**

Ms. Rami Sorge

**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.

**December 2023**

24th Meals in a Box / Rice (Boil-in-Bag)

31st Canned Fruit / Raisins

**Pantry is OPEN**

(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 or [tammie.mang@olp.org](mailto:tammie.mang@olp.org).

**Sunday's Readings:**

**Entrance Antiphon** - Drop down dew from above, you heavens, / and let the clouds rain down the Just One; / let the earth be opened and bring forth a Savior.

**First Reading** - I will fix a place for my people. I will plant them so that they may dwell in their place without further disturbance (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). The English translation of the Psalm Responses from *Lectionary for Mass* © 1969, 1981, 1997, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved.

**Family Discussion of the Week: Acceptance of God's Will**

Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with 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?

**GOD'S PROMISE**

The lengthy passage from Samuel is a wonderful exposition of God's promise to the house of David: that his throne would forever be gloriously occupied by his descendants. Hidden in the mystery of the prophecy is the promise of the Savior, the Messiah, Son of God and Son of David. The prophet Nathan, speaking in God's name, poetically turns around David's plan to build a house for God, and announces God's plan to build a "house," that is, a dynasty for David. From this house of David will come the Messiah, the Christ, not in kingly splendor as David ruled, but as a humble man, destined to rule forever and over all. When God gives a gift, it's amazing what we are given—so different from what we ever could have imagined.

Please see page 6  
for the  
Christmas Mass  
Schedule

**SANCTUARY LAMP** - The lamp is burning this week in memory of John & Peggy Pulice - Family.

**CHAPEL LAMP** - The lamp is burning this week in memory of Ralph & Eva Dangelo - Sargent Family.

*Merry Christmas*

THE SAVIOR IS BORN



Thank you for joining Our Lady of Peace for Christmas Mass! We are so blessed to welcome you to our church. Whether you are a regular attendee or just passing through the area to visit family, welcome to OLP!

If you have been away from the church, we welcome you back. You have been missed. We are not complete without you, and you are not complete without us. That is what it means to be a parish community; we depend on each other and support each other's needs. Know that we are here to walk with you throughout the year, not just occasionally, sharing in the highs and lows of life with you.

This year, we experienced The One Hour to Peace from Mass to Mission where we explored the abundant reasons why the Mass is such a gift to us and how it truly is the "one hour to peace" when we enter fully into it. So let God help you grow in peace beyond all understanding by joining us throughout the year.

*So welcome,  
We hope to see you soon.*





## From the Pastor's Desk...

A blessed Fourth Sunday of Advent! We only have 24 hours of the 4<sup>th</sup> Week of Advent (really less since we start our Christmas celebrations Sunday evening) so hopefully we are ready. PLEASE NOTE that due to the significance of Christmas Mass and what we celebrate there, the obligation to participate in separate Masses for the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent and Christmas remains. So, the church does ask us this year to attend Mass sometime Saturday evening or Sunday morning for Advent (December 23/24) and then again for Christmas either Sunday night or Monday morning (December 24/25). And yes, I realize that for many people, that means going to Mass for Advent in the morning and Christmas in the evening but when we truly appreciate the mystery of the Mass that we have focused on in a special way this past year, hopefully we realize it is a sacrifice worth making.

I encourage you to get to church early for the 5pm and Midnight Masses on Christmas Eve. The Selah Praise Band will provide prelude music from 4:15-5:00pm and Voice of Peace from 11:30pm-Midnight. This is a great way to prepare for our Christmas Masses and to show thanks to our music groups who put much time into preparing for the Christmas Season which helps make it so special. Besides the music we love to hear, we also look forward to hearing the Announcement of Christmas at Midnight Mass.

Since this is also our Christmas bulletin, I want to wish you a very Merry Christmas from myself, Fr. Dan, Deacon John and the whole staff and Parish Leadership Team here at Our Lady of Peace Parish! We pray that God blesses you and your family in this season of joy as you celebrate the true meaning of Christmas. May the message of the angel 2,000 years ago that "a savior has been born for you who is Messiah and Lord" resonate deeper in your heart so that His grace and peace may grow ever deeper in your soul. Remember that the mystery of Christmas is re-lived at EVERY MASS. The "Word becomes flesh" at every liturgy... that's incredible! Because it is so incredible, the Catholic Church celebrates for 8 days (an octave) as if it is Christmas Day (liturgically). And then we continue to celebrate Christmas for another week of the Christmas Season (until January 9<sup>th</sup> this year). Let's experience the mystery of the incarnation anew this Christmas at Mass-join us one day, several days or every day of the Christmas Octave/Season. We will be here and we would love to celebrate with you!

May God bless our 4<sup>th</sup> week (day) of Late Advent and our Christmas Octave 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...**

**\*\*Please note, the parish office is closed from Sunday, December 24<sup>th</sup> -- Monday, January 1<sup>st</sup>. Reopening Tuesday, January 2<sup>nd</sup>; we thank you for understanding the need**

**to give our parish staff a well-deserved break.**

**\*\*Thank you to Warren and Christine Beaver and Mike and Mary Beth Whitman for again donating the Christmas Books for our Parish! This year we are giving out "Beautiful Eucharist." We gave early copies to those who participated in The One Hour to Peace. . . from Mass to Mission. If you did not get one then, feel free to take one now and allow it to help you grow in your Eucharistic Amazement!**

**\*\*Christmas Gloria/Octave** 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.

**\*\*Recall that the Christmas Season lasts for just over 2 weeks this year.** Highlights include:

- The Feast of the Holy Family (Sunday, December 31<sup>st</sup>)
- Mary, the Mother of God (Sunday, January 1<sup>st</sup>)
- Epiphany (Sunday, January 7<sup>th</sup> when we will have the Proclamation of the dates for Easter and other significant dates of the Liturgical Year and hand out the house blessing cards).
- The Christmas Season will conclude on the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord on Monday, January 8<sup>th</sup> when we will have Solemn Evening Prayer with Benediction at 6:30pm.


**\*\*Holy Hour for Peace** We will continue the tradition of ringing in the New Year with Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament from 11pm-12 Midnight on New Year's Eve (Sunday, December 31<sup>st</sup>). 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 though a litany of peace. After the Holy Hour there will be time for some refreshments and fellowship in the rectory.

**\*\*Appreciation Dinner** Our Parish Volunteer Appreciation Dinner will be **Saturday, January 20<sup>th</sup> at 6pm**. If you volunteer in any capacity, please mark your new 2024 calendar and plan to attend. RSVP to the church office by calling 814-833-7701 x0 or email [olp@olp.org](mailto:olp@olp.org).

**\*\*Special Masses this Week** Monday, Dec. 25<sup>th</sup>- Nativity of the Lord; Tuesday, Dec. 26<sup>th</sup>- St. Stephen, the First Martyr; Wednesday, Dec. 27<sup>th</sup>- St. John, Apostle, Evangelist; Thursday, Dec. 28<sup>th</sup>- the Holy Innocents, Martyrs; Friday, Dec. 29<sup>th</sup>- St. Thomas Beckett, Bishop, Martyr (13<sup>th</sup> Century England); Saturday, Dec. 30<sup>th</sup>- 6<sup>th</sup> Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord.

**\*\*The Nativity Scene.** Hearing the concerns that some of you had with the placement of the Nativity Scene in the back of church last year, we are trying another new location this year. In an effort to respect the church's directives to not have nativity scenes in the main sanctuary while still seeking to allow the nativity to be visible while sitting in the church, we are trying a new location. Thank you for your understanding while we seek to find the best solution for our parish.

**\*\*2024 Parish Calendars** are at the doors of the church. I thank our sponsors for making them possible for us: Scott Enterprises, ECCA Inc. Payroll and Tax Service, First National Bank-Christopher Hanes, Manager, Beer and Pop Discount Warehouse, Knights of Columbus Council 11454, and Cynthia Berarducci-Howard Hanna Realtor.

**\*\*Thank you to the donors who covered the cost of our new** 

### **Evangelist Carvings above the main doors in the vestibule:**

*Mike and Shelley Vybiral* – In memory of Patty McGuire

*Phil and Debbie Schmalzried and Family* – In memory of the deceased members of the Schmalzried and Karafa Families

*Jim and Mary Margaret Malue* – In memory of Bob and Dolly Theiss and Jim and Irene Malue

*Deacon Dennis and Lynn Kudlak* – In memory of Joyce Kudlak

### **\*\*Genuflecting in Church and During the Creed on Christmas**

Another liturgical note to be ready for is the tradition we have genuflecting during the Creed at Christmas Masses when we profess our faith in the great mystery of the Incarnation. I share part of an article from Aletia to reinforce the importance of this gesture. “For Catholics in the Roman Rite of the Church, bending the knee to the ground is a common gesture that is steeped in religious symbolism. It is an ancient custom, one that helps Christians pray with both body and soul.

However, it isn't always communicated to the lay faithful when a person should genuflect. Many know why bending the knee is an important gesture, but we don't always know when is the proper time and place.

To discover the answer to that, we need to look at the General Instruction of the Roman Missal (GIRM). First of all, the GIRM states, “A genuflection, made by bending the right knee to the ground, signifies adoration, and therefore it is reserved for the Most Blessed Sacrament.” This is extremely important as it explains that the genuflection is a gesture ultimately directed towards God, truly present in the Holy Eucharist. We don't genuflect to people (as some cultures did in the past) or material things, but to God alone. Next the GIRM explains, in most cases “all who pass before the Most Blessed Sacrament genuflect.”

There are a few exceptions to this rule that are spelled out in the GIRM, but those relate to those who are performing some sort of function at Mass. Outside of those exceptions, it is the general custom in the Roman Rite that you genuflect on one knee whenever you pass before the tabernacle (that contains the Blessed Sacrament). Usually when people enter a Catholic church and walk to their pew they genuflect before sitting down, which is a small gesture of adoration for the One who is present there. However, its important to note that a genuflection is only necessary when passing the tabernacle. This means a person should look out for the tabernacle, as the tabernacle may not be visibly present, in a side chapel, or even empty. There is no reason to genuflect when entering a church if you don't walk by a tabernacle. In those cases a simple bow to the altar is appropriate. On Good Friday, when the Blessed Sacrament has been removed to the altar of repose, we do not genuflect before the empty tabernacle. A good reminder is to look for the lamp which is kept burning near the tabernacle when the Blessed Sacrament is present. Another custom, though not universal in practice, is to genuflect on two knees when the Blessed Sacrament is exposed on the altar in a gold monstrance for public adoration. This is a tradition many are familiar with, but it is optional. It simply recognizes that Jesus is no longer behind a door, but is before everyone in a more visible way.

Besides these instances, there are a few other circumstances when a genuflection is asked for special occasions.

For example, it is customary to genuflect before “the Holy Cross from the solemn adoration during the liturgical celebration on Good Friday until the beginning of the Easter Vigil.” During this solemn time of the year the cross receives special attention, and the genuflection gives honor to the sacrifice Jesus made on the cross. **Another time is during the recitation of the Creed on the feast of the Annunciation and Christmas at the words “and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man.” This is physical gesture is meant to remind the faithful of the reality of the Incarnation and how Jesus descended into the world to become one of us.** In the end, genuflection is a beautiful custom preserved by the Roman Rite which gives honor to the true “King of kings” who is truly present in the Most Blessed Sacrament.”

### **\*\*Quotes from the USCCB's Pastoral Letter “The Mystery of the Eucharist in the Life of the Church” NOV 2021**

Paragraph 30 & 31- “Having been sanctified by the gift of the Eucharist and filled with faith, hope, and charity, the faithful are called to respond to this gift. Indeed, it is only natural that we give thanks to the Lord for all that he has given to us. How can I repay the Lord for all the great good done for me? I will raise the cup of salvation and call on the name of the Lord (Ps 116:12). The word “Eucharist” literally means “thanksgiving.” Even our manner of giving thanks comes from God, for we do so by following the command of the Lord: do this in memory of me (Lk 22:19).

The Second Vatican Council taught that, in order to give thanks properly in the celebration of the Mass, we should “take a full, conscious, and active part in the liturgical celebration.” We need to be conscious of the gift we have received, a gift that is none other than the Lord himself in his act of self-giving. We become conscious of this gift when we actively engage our minds, hearts, and bodies to every part of the liturgy, allowing God through the words, actions, gestures, and even the moments of silence to speak to us. We actively and consciously participate by giving our full attention to the words being spoken in the prayers and the Scriptures, even if we have heard them hundreds of times before. We do so also by listening to the homily and reflecting upon how the Lord may be speaking to us through his ordained minister. We are actively giving thanks when we join in singing and in the responses; when we kneel, stand, and sit; and when we pay attention to the liturgical seasons where the entire history of what God has done for us, in and through his Son, is revealed to us.”

### **\*\*Quotes from the Saints on the Mass/ Eucharist**

**St. Augustine** “He who is all-knowing knew of nothing more that he could give than the Eucharist. He who is all-powerful could not do any more than he does in the sacrament and he who is all loving had nothing more that He could give. The Eucharist is a Divine storehouse filled with every virtue.”

**St. Francis de Sales** “When you have receive Him, stir up your heart to do Him homage; speak to Him about your spiritual life, gazing upon Him in your soul where He is present for your happiness; welcome Him as warmly as possible, and behave outwardly in such a way that your actions may give proof to all of His Presence.”



*Readings for the Week of December 24th*

Monday: Vigil: Is 62:1-5; Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27-29; Acts 13:16-17, 22-25; Mt 1:1-25 [18-25]  
During the Night: Is 9:1-6; Ps 96:1-3, 11-13; Ti 2:11-14; Lk 2:1-14  
Dawn: Is 62:11-12; Ps 97:1, 6, 11-12; Ti 3:4-7; Lk 2:15-20  
Day: Is 52:7-10; Ps 98:1-6; Heb 1:1-6; Jn 1:1-18 [1-5, 9-14]

Tuesday: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59;  
 Ps 31:3cd-4, 6, 8ab, 16bc, 17; Mt 10:17-22

Wednesday: 1 Jn 1:1-4; Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12; Jn 20:1a, 2-8

Thursday: 1 Jn 1:5 — 2:2; Ps 124:2-5, 7cd-8; Mt 2:13-18

Friday: 1 Jn 2:3-11; Ps 96:1-3, 5b-6; Lk 2:22-35

Saturday: 1 Jn 2:12-17; Ps 96:7-10; Lk 2:36-40

Sunday: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or Gn 15:1-6; 21:1-3; Ps 128:1-5 or Ps 105:1-6, 8-9; Col 3:12-21 [12-17] or Hb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19; Lk 2:22-40 [22, 39-40]

## Christmas Mass Schedule

### SUNDAY, December 24, 2023

#### *Fourth Sunday of Advent*

- 7:30AM Parishioners
- 9:00AM Rachel Metz - Niece, Marcia
- 11:00AM Deceased Members of the Novak & Zavasky Families - Family



### SUNDAY, December 24, 2023

#### *Christmas Eve*

- 5:00PM Deceased Members of the Daugherty Family - Family
- 7:30PM Michael & Marianne Fetzer - Tom & June Carr
- Midnight 12:00AM Rob Wieczorek & Penny Bizzarro - Family

### MONDAY, December 25, 2023

#### *The Nativity of the Lord - Christmas*

- 8:00AM Parishioners
- 10:00AM Amelia Pozzutti Patsy - Son & Daughter-in-Law

### TUESDAY, December 26, 2023

- 7:00AM Gert Milkowski - Daughter, Nancy
- 12:10PM Edward Karpinski - Jackie & Dan Kensinger & Family

### THURSDAY, December 28, 2023

- 7:00AM Mary Peterson - M/M Thomas Brennan
- 12:10PM Lawrence & Patricia Smith - Children

### SATURDAY, December 30, 2023

- 8:00AM Mary Lubin - Family
- 5:00PM Edward Karpinski - Jackie & Dan Kensinger & Family

### MONDAY, January 1, 2024

#### *Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God*

- 8:00AM Edward Chimenti, Jr. - EJ & Judy Johns
- 10:00AM JoAnne Amann - Dennis & Lynda Crossmire



### WEDNESDAY, December 27, 2023

- 7:00AM John Wojtkielewicz - Family
- 12:10PM Aurea Riviera - Mike & Ileana Restivo

### FRIDAY, December 29, 2023

- 7:00AM James Zimmerman - Dick Wingenbach
- 12:10PM Rosealie Everst - Mike & Ileana Restivo

### SUNDAY, December 31, 2023

#### *The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph*

- 7:30AM Leonard Jankowski - Family
- 9:00AM Josephine M. Przybycin - Fred & Evelyn Fried
- 11:00AM Norma Kalie - Husband, Jim
- 4:30PM Parishioners
- 11:00PM Holy Hour for Peace







## Volunteer Appreciation

# DINNER

In gratitude for your time  
and service to the mission of OLP

Saturday, January 20th

6:00 PM - SCHOOL CAFETERIA

RSVP BY CALLING THE OFFICE AT 814-833-7701  
OR EMAIL OLP@OLP.ORG



### 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

### Mark Your Calendar for Area Events

**Thursday, December 28 6:00PM**

**Funtastics: A group of card-playing adults**

**St. Luke Parish Cafeteria** 421 E. 38th St., Erie

The group enjoys games of Euchre as well as single-deck and double-deck Pinochle. Call Kevin 814-882-8070.

**Saturday, January 13 9:00AM**

**Pro-Life Breakfast** Guest Speaker: Sherif Girgis

**Bayfront Convention Center** Erie, PA

Reservations required; due by January 5, 2024

Adults \$26/Ages 3-12 \$18/Under 3 Free

Free Childcare with fun activities.

*Sherif Girgis*: Law Professor, Author, Law Clerk for Supreme Court Justice Samuel Alito, Jr., Pro-Life Advocate.

Sponsored by People for Life, Erie 814-882-1333 or 814-459-1333; [www.PeopleforLife.org](http://www.PeopleforLife.org)

**Friday, January 19, 2024**

**March for Life Washington, DC**

**51st Annual Trip** Depart Thursday evening, January 18,

11PM; March in Washington, DC on Friday, January 19;

Return Saturday morning, January 20 about 1:30AM.

\$65 seat; Early reservations recommended; Sponsorship inquires are welcome; Visit: [peopleforlife.org/january2024](http://peopleforlife.org/january2024);

Questions: call or email 814-882-1333 or 814-459-1333;

[office@peopleforlife.org](mailto:office@peopleforlife.org)

Website: [www.PeopleforLife.org](http://www.PeopleforLife.org)

**Friday-Saturday, February 9-10, 2024**

**Pre-Lenten Retreat** with Diocese of Erie

**St. Thomas More House of Prayer** 365 Hill City Rd., Cranberry, PA

Step away from busyness and stress to join other single and married adults in a weekend of prayer and community.

The Virtue & Integrity Education Office of the Diocese of Erie is sponsoring this retreat, which will include reflections on each person's call to holiness by Fr. Kevin Barrett.

Questions: call or email Cassondra, 814-824-1216, [cdragone@eriercd.org](mailto:cdragone@eriercd.org). For pricing and/or to register visit

website: <https://www.eriercd.org/chastity/retreat.html>

## 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. 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.

Dec. 27: Ann R.

Dec. 28: Ann F., Michael M., Mary Margaret M.

Dec. 29: Linda M., Janet A.

Dec. 30: Bethann D., Linda D., Julie M., James S.

Dec. 31: Jim Z.

*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.*

# FAQs at OLP

## Baptism



**Why Baptizing your child is the most important thing you can do? As Catholics, we understand that through baptism your child *becomes* a child of God; that is why it is a sacrament of initiation.**

What does Baptism do:

- It forgives all sins that were committed before baptism including original, mortal, and venial sin.
- It makes the baptized a new creature.
- It turns the baptized into a newly adopted son or daughter of God and a member of the Church.
- It brings them to share in the royal priesthood of Christ. (1 Peter 2:9 "But you are 'a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people of his own, so that you may announce the praises' of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.")

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Baptism is the door to eternal life, to the Catholic Faith

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Ready to have your child(ren) baptized at OLP? All new parents take an online Baptism Preparation Class. Contact Tammie Mang, Faith Formation Director at 814-838-9983 or [tammie.mang@olp.org](mailto:tammie.mang@olp.org) to schedule your class. Upon completion of the Baptism Preparation Class, families can schedule their Baptism with the church office by calling 814-833-7701 x 0 or email Cynthia Berarducci, Secretary at [cynthia.berarducci@olp.org](mailto:cynthia.berarducci@olp.org).

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Baptisms are celebrated on the 1st and 3rd Sunday of each month at 12:30pm.

## Sponsor Certificates

**Congratulations. . . you have been asked to be a Baptism or Confirmation Sponsor. What do I do next? Sponsors need a sponsor certificate from the parish in which they are registered, attend Mass and receive Communion regularly. To be a sponsor you must have been Confirmed. To obtain a sponsor certificate, registered parishioners can call the parish office at 814-833-7701 x0 or email Cynthia Berarducci, Secretary, at [cynthia.berarducci@olp.org](mailto:cynthia.berarducci@olp.org)**



# Confession

**Confession (also known as Reconciliation or Penance) is a sacrament instituted by Jesus Christ in His love and mercy to offer sinners forgiveness for offenses committed against God. Not only does it free us from our sins, it challenges us to have the same compassion and forgiveness for those who sin against us.**

Why should you go?

- It cleanses your Soul. There is no better feeling than realizing that God has heard you and forgiven you. It strengthens you for the journey still ahead.
- It allows your relationship with God to grow and strengthen. The more we receive this sacrament and work to avoid sin, the more we learn to rely on His guidance and become more open to His will for us. Confession gives us sacramental grace to grow in holiness as we recognize our mistakes and work to repair our relationship with God.
- Through it we experience Divine forgiveness. There is no question of “if” we are forgiven. If you confess all your mortal sins and are truly sorry for them, your soul *is* cleansed when the priest recites the words of absolution.
- It allows you to relinquish your guilt. Living a life full of unforgiven sins not only separates us from God, it weighs on our hearts, causing us to feel shame and guilt.
- It allows you to take off the “rose colored glasses.” Acknowledging your sins is the first step in being accountable to yourself and healing and renewing your relationship with God. Only when we are honest with ourselves and God can we grow in holiness and to live in His light.

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Confession is offered on:

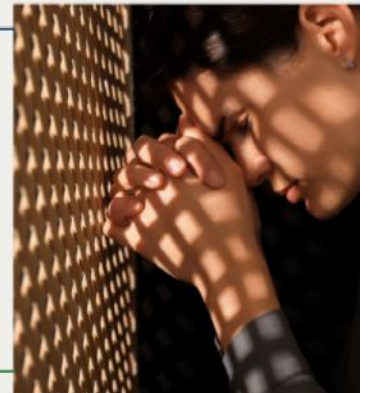
Wednesdays from 11:15am - Noon

Saturdays from 8:30-9am

Saturdays from 3:45-4:45pm

or by appointment. Fr. Rich and Fr. Dan are always willing to help you through Confession if it has been awhile for you, so don't let that stop you from this beautiful sacrament of healing.

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# Mass Intentions

How can I arrange for a Mass Intention? Mass intentions are scheduled in the church office, Monday through Friday from 9am until 4pm. Families are also invited to arrange the sanctuary candle or chapel candle in honor or in memory as well. The minimum donation is \$10 per Mass or candle. The Mass intention book for 2025 will open on March 15, 2024.

# Marriage



Why get married in a church? Engaged couples are looking for a location that will easily accommodate both the ceremony and the reception. Because most church weddings don't meet that level of easy convenience or modern backdrop, many couples question the idea of a church wedding.

If you are preparing for marriage, the real reason for a "church wedding" is to celebrate the solemn Sacrament. Marriage is a Sacrament, and thus the Catholic Church requests that it be celebrated in a sacred place, a church. For this reason we celebrate weddings in the same building we celebrate the Sacraments of Baptism, Holy Communion and Reconciliation.

Marriage is more than just a contractual agreement between two parties, it is a living embodiment of Christ's relationship to his Church. The Catechism of the Catholic Church 1603 says "...God himself is the author of marriage. The vocation to marriage is written in the very nature of man and woman as they came from the hand of the Creator. Marriage is not a purely human institution despite the many variations it may have undergone through the centuries in different cultures, social structures, and spiritual attitudes. These differences should not cause us to forget its common and permanent characteristics. Although the dignity of this institution is not transparent everywhere with the same clarity, some sense of the greatness of the matrimonial union exists in all cultures."

The way you begin your marriage-in that sacred space-creates an anchor in your life together. The vows, readings, songs will live on in memories, but the church is a place you can always return to for encouragement and renewal.

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Are you ready to plan your wedding at Our Lady of Peace? We recommend you reach out to the Pastor or Priest who will preside at your ceremony at least 6 months and preferably 12 months prior to your wedding. Once you have done that, please call the office to reserve your wedding date and time by calling 814-833-7701 x 0 or email Cynthia Berarducci, Secretary, at [cynthia.berarducci@olp.org](mailto:cynthia.berarducci@olp.org). To schedule music for your ceremony, contact Brian Kuzmin, Director of Music and Liturgy at 814-833-7701 x203 or [brian.kuzmin@olp.org](mailto:brian.kuzmin@olp.org).

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# Annulment

**Divorce is a reality for all people, even for Roman Catholics. There are many myths about Marriage Annulments in the Catholic Church.**

**Myth #1** - A divorced person is automatically excommunicated from the Catholic Church. The truth is that divorce, itself, does not alter a person's status in the Catholic Church. Divorce is a function of civil law and secular courts.

**Myth #2** Only Catholic Marriages need to be annulled. The truth is that every marriage is considered a promise for life until death. It makes no difference whether that promise was made in a Catholic ceremony or not.

**Myth #3** - If children were born in the marriage, it can't be annulled. The truth is that the Catholic Church considers the openness to children to be a natural part of sacramental marriage. Whether children were born or not has no bearing on the possibility of annulment. The church never considers the children of a divorced and/or annulled marriage illegitimate. Children are always a beautiful and precious gift of God no matter the circumstances they are brought into this world.

**Myth #4** - The ex-spouse has to agree to an annulment or it can't be granted. The truth is that both spouses have equal rights in an annulment proceeding, but the ex-spouse and the person who starts the annulment process do not have to agree. The Tribunal judges can grant an annulment even if the ex-spouse is adamantly opposed to an annulment.

**Myth #5** - An Annulment is just a "Catholic Divorce." A civil divorce and a church annulment are vastly different things. A divorce is concerned with the legal realities of marriage only, while an annulment is concerned with the religious and spiritual sacrament of marriage. An annulment looks at the marriage from everything leading up to and at the time of consent (the "I do"). Just because there is infidelity or any other issues that happen after the time of consent does not automatically mean that an annulment will be granted.

**Myth #6** - An Annulment means the marriage never took place. An annulment can't erase history and does not try to. An annulment states that valid consent was never present in the marriage, not that the marriage never took place. The purpose of an annulment is to bring healing and peace between the parties of the marriage so that they can fully participate in the life of God's grace and the life of the Church and if they are called to marry again to be open and ready to receive the gift of a valid, sacramental marriage.

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Information on the annulment process is provided by The Office of the Marriage Tribunal, Diocese of Erie and can be found at [www.eriecd.org/tribunal.html](http://www.eriecd.org/tribunal.html). Each marriage is reviewed by the Tribunal as required by Canon law, and is kept confidential.

For help with counseling or other matters related to marriage, please contact either Fr. Rich at 814-833-7701 x212, [fr.rich@olp.org](mailto:fr.rich@olp.org) or Fr. Dan at 814-833-7701 x205, [fr.dan@olp.org](mailto:fr.dan@olp.org)



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**Whatever may be going on in your life Our Lady of Peace Parish is here to walk with you through the journey: the highs, the lows and the everyday in between.**



## 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 myParish 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.



### Homebound Ministry

Serve our brothers and sisters by bringing Holy Communion to those in our parish that are unable to join us for Mass.



### Can You Help Us?

The Homebound ministry has been blessed with many Eucharistic Ministers volunteering recently.

Why do we need help?

There are many parishioners who can no longer get to Mass to receive our Lord. We are asking for your help to identify those who want to receive Holy Communion at home or in a local Nursing home.

If you know of someone, please call the church office at 814-833-7701 x0.

All Eucharistic Ministers maintain confidentiality when ministering to the Homebound/Nursing Home Bound.

### FAITH FORMATION NEWS

Grades 1-8: Classes meet from 9:15-10:45am in the school and church basement.

**Jan. 7** - Regular classes

**Jan. 14** - No Religious Ed. Classes

**Jan. 21** - Regular classes

**Jan. 28** - 1st Reconciliation Parent meeting 12:15 in the church

**\*Church Activity Forms for grades 1-8 are due January 21<sup>st</sup>**

Grades 9-10: Classes meet 5:30-7:30PM

**Jan. 7** - Regular classes

**Jan. 14** - No Religious Ed. Classes

**Jan 21** - Regular classes- Completed Bishop letter due

**Jan. 28** - No Religious Ed. Classes

Questions: Tammie Mang, Faith Formation Director,  
814-838-9983 or [Tammie\\_mang@olp.org](mailto:Tammie_mang@olp.org)

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Questions/RSVP  
sarah.beaver@olp.org

## OLP YOUTH MINISTRY SCHEDULE -SPRING 2024-



### JANUARY

2nd- MS/HS Christmas Party, location TBD  
10th-MS/HS Ripple Effect 6-9pm, meet in chapel, pick up outside church  
12th- Kid's Night Out-RSVP by Jan. 10th  
13th-MS Retreat-RSVP by Jan. 10th  
16th-MS YG 6:30-8:30pm, meet in chapel  
17th-MS YG 6:30-8:30pm, meet in chapel  
18th-St. Francis in McKean Adoration 8pm  
22nd-4th/5th Gr. YG 4-5:30pm, meet in chapel  
22nd-OLP Adoration for Life 6:30pm  
23rd-MS YG 6:30-8:30pm, meet in chapel  
24th-MS YG 6:30-8:30pm, meet in chapel  
27th-MS/HS Festival of Praise trip to Steubenville, OH, Noon-Midnight-RSVP by Jan. 24th  
30th-MS YG 6:30-8:30pm, meet in chapel  
31st-MS YG 6:30-8:30pm, 12th St. Chick-Fil-A

### FEBRUARY

2nd- Kid's Night Out-RSVP by Jan. 31st  
7th-MS/HS Ripple Effect 6-9pm, meet in chapel, pick up outside church  
9th-11th- Divine Mercy Encounter Retreat  
13th- Mardi Gras Party-all invited, 6-8pm, Cafeteria  
15th-St. Francis in McKean Adoration 8pm  
19th- OLP Adoration 6:30pm  
20th-MS YG 6:30-8:30pm, meet in chapel  
21st-MS YG 6:30-8:30pm, meet in chapel  
24th- Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser-all day  
26th-4th/5th Gr. YG 4-5:30pm, meet in chapel  
27th-MS YG 6:30-8:30pm, meet in chapel  
28th-MS YG 6:30-8:30pm, 12th St. Chick-Fil-A

### MARCH

2nd- Men's Conference 8am-1pm  
6th-MS/HS Ripple Effect 6-9pm, meet in chapel, pick up outside church  
9th- Kid's Night Out-RSVP by Mar. 6th  
10th-MS YG 6:30-8:30pm, meet in chapel  
12th-MS YG 6:30-8:30pm, meet in chapel  
13th-MS YG 6:30-8:30pm, meet in chapel  
14th-St. Francis in McKean Adoration 8pm  
15th-Living Stations in OLP Church 7pm  
18th-4th/5th Gr. YG 4-5:30pm, meet in chapel  
19th-St. Joseph Table 6-8pm, OLP Cafeteria  
20th-MS YG 6:30-8:30pm, 12th St. Chick-Fil-A  
25th- Christ Mass at Cathedral 1pm  
26th-MS/HS YG 6:30-8:30pm meet in social room  
27th-The Passion Talk by Fr. Larry Richard at St. Joe's Bread of Life Church 7pm  
28th-Holy Thursday Church Hopping, meet at OLP at 8:15pm-RSVP by Mar. 25th  
30th-Holy Saturday Sunrise Hike at Wintergreen George, meet at 6am

### APRIL

3rd-MS/HS Easter Party 6:30-8:30pm, Gym  
7th- Divine Mercy Service 3pm, OLP Church  
10th-MS/HS Ripple Effect 6-9pm, meet in chapel, pick up outside church  
12th-14th- Divine Mercy Encounter Retreat  
16th-MS YG 6:30-8:30pm, meet in chapel  
17th-MS YG 6:30-8:30pm, meet in social room  
18th-St. Francis in McKean Adoration 8pm  
20th-Women's Conference 8am-1pm  
22nd-4th/5th Gr. YG 4-5:30p, meet in chapel  
23rd-MS YG 6:30-8:30pm, meet in chapel  
24th-MS YG 6:30-8:30pm, 12th St. Chick-Fil-A  
26th-27th-Festival of Praise Trip to Latrobe, PA, 4pm Fri to 11am Sat, RSVP by Apr. 20th

### MAY

1st-MS/HS Ripple Effect 6-9pm, meet in chapel, pick up outside church  
3rd- Kid's Night Out-RSVP by May 1st  
7th-MS YG 6:30-8:30pm, meet in chapel  
8th-MS YG 6:30-8:30pm, meet in chapel  
11th-Faithful to the Finish 5k, RSVP in Apr.  
13th-4th/5th Gr. YG 4-5:30pm, meet in chapel  
14th & 21st-MS YG 6:30-8:30pm, meet in chapel  
15th & 22nd-MS YG 6:30-8:30pm, meet in chapel (22nd @ Chick-Fil-A)  
16th-St. Francis in McKean Adoration 8pm  
18th- Pepperoni Ball Sale Pick Up Fundraiser 10-11:30am

# Pilgrimage

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Indianapolis - July 17-21, 2024



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Questions? Contact the Erie Diocesan Eucharistic Adoration Committee at [eriedeac@gmail.com](mailto:eriedeac@gmail.com)

Saturday, January 20, 2024

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## OLP'S KID'S NIGHT OUT SCHEDULE

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JAN 12TH, FEB 2ND, MAR 8TH, MAY 3RD  
5:30-9pm  
Dinner, snacks, crafts, games, & prayer included. Must RSVP, no walk in's. Limited spots. Sign in/out OLP Cafeteria.

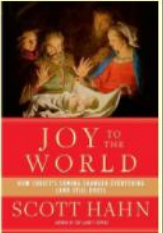
RSVP to [sarah.beaver@olp.org](mailto:sarah.beaver@olp.org) by the Wednesday before!



Stop in the church vestibule to see what's new at the OLP Catholic Resource Kiosk

Book: \$5  
ADVENT BOOK: *The Joy to the World*

In *Joy to the World*, Dr. Scott Hahn brings the first Noel to new light through his thought-provoking combination of exciting story-telling and penetrating biblical insight. Christmas, as it appears in the New Testament, is the story of a father, a mother, and a child, their relationships, their interactions, their principles, their individual lives, and their life in common. To see the lives of this "earthly trinity" is to catch a first glimpse of heaven. Dr. Hahn shows Christmas to be the story of a family.



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Our Lady of Peace Church  
2401 W. 38th St.



**WHEN:** Tuesday nights: 7:00 to 8:30pm

January 9, 2024 through March 5, 2024, no class February 13<sup>th</sup>

**OR**

Wednesday mornings: 10:00 to 11:30am

January 10, 2024 through March 6, 2024, no class February 14<sup>th</sup>

**WHERE:** Our Lady of Peace Church Social Room

This is an 8-week Bible Study

Pre-Registration is required by December 20, 2023.

**COST:** \$10.00, which includes workbook and materials.

Please drop off or mail check and 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 at 814-833-7701 x202

No previous experience necessary. All are welcome.

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## Our Lady of Peace Bible Study: Daniel

You will be registered upon receipt of payment-due by December 20, 2023

Make checks payable to: Our Lady of Peace Church

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Parish \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Please specify: Tuesday night session \_\_\_\_\_

Wednesday morning session \_\_\_\_\_


\_\_\_\_\_ Registration \$10.00 includes workbook and materials:

Total enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_ Cash \_\_\_\_\_ or Check \_\_\_\_\_





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