



Our Lady of Peace

*And how does this happen to me,
that the mother of my Lord
should come to me?*

Luke 1:39-45



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

Interim School Principal

Mrs. Lisa Panighetti

School Phone

814-838-3548

School Website

www.ericatholic.org

Parish Pastoral Team

Pastor

Rev. Rich Toohey

(fr.rich@olp.org)

Parochial Vicar

Rev. Nicholas Fratus

Priest in Residence

Rev. Shane Mathew

Permanent Deacons

Deacon Ralph DeCecco

Deacon 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

Outreach Coordinator

Mr. Andrew Heinlein

Coordinator of Adult Formation

Sister Kathleen Dietz, FSO

Maintenance Supervisor

Mr. Michael Przepierski

Pastoral Council President

Mr. Justin Miles

Finance Council Chairman

Ms. Rami Sorge

Parish Leadership Team

Fr. Rich Toohey, Gina Adams,

Warren Beaver, Justin Miles,

Mary Beth Whitman

The Sacrament of Baptism is

celebrated each month on the 1st

Sunday at 11AM Mass & 3rd

Sunday at 12:30PM. A mandatory

prep class for parents is available.

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.

OCIA (Order 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:

Call the office: 814-833-7701 x0



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 2024

22th Nut Butters / Jelly or Jam

29th Pasta Sauce / Pasta

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 or Tammie Mang, Faith Formation Office, at 814-838-9983 or 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 - From Bethlehem-Ephrathah shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel (Micah 5:1-4a).

Psalms - Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved (Psalm 80).

Second Reading - We have been consecrated through the offering of the body of Christ once for all (Hebrews 10:5-10).

Gospel - Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken by the Lord would be fulfilled (Luke 1:39-45).

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: Obedience to God's Will

Elizabeth said, "Blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord." (Luke 1:45)

Adults: When was it hardest for you to trust in God's plan for you, as Mary did? What can help you at such times?

Kids: When is it hardest for you to obey a parent or teacher? What can help you obey with more trust?

MEMORIES AND DREAMS

Throughout our lives, we retain the language and habits of our native region and family of origin.

Should we return to our home after a long absence, we quickly revert to its familiar speech and practices.

Our deep memory is reflected in old stories and words and speech patterns. This familiarity runs like an underground river and accompanies us wherever we go.

Not only do we remember, we are incorporated into and made part of a greater memory. In remembering and recollecting, we are in turn gathered up and re-collected.

Today we remember Mary, a small figure travelling the country roads to visit Elizabeth. All the great pronouncements and dreams of the prophets point to this time when the Lord's words to Mary would be gathered and fulfilled. The memories of her people are alive in her, and memories of her nourish our own living faith.

**Please see page 6
for the
Christmas
Mass
Schedule**



Readings for the Week of December 22nd

Monday: Mal 3:1-4, 23-24; Ps 25:2-5, 27, 29; Lk 1:57-66

Tuesday: 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]
Night: Is 9:1-6; Ps 96:1-3, 11-13; Ti 2:11-14; Lk 2:1-14

Wednesday: Day: Is 52:7-10; Ps 98:1-6; Heb 1:1-6; Jn 1:1-18 [1-5, 9-14]

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

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

Saturday: 1 Jn 1:5 - 2:2; Ps 124:2-5, 7b-8; Mt 2:13-18

Sunday: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or 1 Sm 1:20-22, 24-28; Ps 128:1-5 or Ps 84:2-3, 5-6, 9-10; Col 3:12-21 [12-17] or 1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24; Lk 2:41-52

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

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

Volunteer Appreciation

DINNER

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

Saturday, January 18th

6:00 PM - SCHOOL CAFETERIA

RSVP BY CALLING THE OFFICE AT 814-833-7701 or EMAIL marybeth.whitman@olp.org

Leading the way. . .

in truth,
in faith,
in love
of Christ



A Family Perspective

Mary was excited about her first pregnancy and rushed to tell her cousin. Sadly children are often seen as a liability, “another mouth to feed” or an “obstacle to my career.” It is said “Christmas is for children.” It is more accurate to say “Christmas is for adults to appreciate the gift of children!”

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. 22: John G., Sally R., Dianne Y.
- 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.
- Dec. 27: Ann R.
- Dec. 28: Ann F., Michael M., Mary Margaret M.
- Dec. 29: Linda M., Janet 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...

A blessed 4th Sunday of Advent and an early Merry Christmas from myself, Fr. Nick, Deacon John, Deacon Ralph and the whole staff here at Our Lady of Peace Parish! I encourage you to get to church early for the 5pm and Midnight Masses on Christmas Eve. **Voice of Peace Choir will be performing prelude music from 4:30-5pm and Selah Praise Band 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 our music for the Christmas Season and help make it so special here at Our Lady of Peace. We also look forward to hearing the Announcement of Christmas at Midnight Mass.

Here is the Christmas Mass schedule at Our Lady of Peace...

Tuesday, December 24th	(No 12:10pm daily Mass) 5pm Family Mass 7:30pm Mass
Wednesday, December 25th	12AM Midnight Mass 10am Mass

Remember that we celebrate Christmas as an Octave so from Tuesday, December 25 through Tuesday, January 1st; so, our Masses will have full solemnity as if Christmas Day with a Gloria, extra music and chant as well as the use of the Roman Canon (Eucharistic Prayer I). Both the beginning and end of the octave, Christmas and Mary, Mary of God (January 1st) are Holy Days of Obligation. **Masses for Mary, Mother of God will be Tuesday, December 31st at 5:30pm and Wednesday, January 1st at 10am.**

May God bless our short 4th week 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 that the parish office will be closed from Tuesday, December 24th until Wednesday, January 1st and thank you for understanding the need to give our parish staff a well-deserved break.**

****A huge thank you** to all who donated to the #iGiveCatholic Campaign! As of December 10th we had 160 donations for \$36,772. We receive the most donations for the Diocese of Erie and 4th in total raised. This is a major help to support and grow our Adult Faith Formation program. If you did not have a chance to give to OLP through #iGiveCatholic due to the winter storm or other issues, feel free to make a donation in a specially marked envelope and it will still be used for Adult Faith Formation.

****Hopefully you have seen** the 2025 Parish Calendars that are at the doors of the church. I thank our sponsors for making them possible. Scott Enterprises; E.C.C.A. Inc Payroll and Tax Service; First National Bank, Chris Hanes, Manager; Beer & Pop Discount Warehouse; Knights of Columbus, OLP Council 11454; and Maleno, Custom Building, Real Estate and Property Management.

****Thank you to** Mike and Mary Beth Whitman and Warren and Christine Beaver for donating the Christmas Books for our Parish! This year we are giving out the book we recently used for the Parish Eucharistic Consecration by Matthew Kelly... "33 Days to Eucharistic Glory." I highly recommend that you take a book and participate in the Eucharistic Consecration if you have not already done so- it will be a great blessing to you! If you did not get one earlier in the year then please take one now and allow it to help you grow in your Eucharistic Amazement!

****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's prepare to give Glory to God in our Christmas celebrations!

****Christmas Season** Recall that the Christmas Season lasts 2 and a half weeks this year. Highlights include the Feast of the Holy Family (Sunday, December 29th), Mary the Mother of God (Wednesday, January 1st), and the Epiphany (Sunday, January 5th 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 Sunday, January 12th when we will have Solemn Evening Prayer with Benediction at 6pm.

****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 (Tuesday, 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 though a litany of peace. After the Holy Hour there will be time for a champagne toast and fellowship in the rectory.

****Appreciation Dinner** Our Parish Appreciation Dinner is **Sat., Jan. 18th at 6pm**. If you volunteer in any capacity, mark your new 2025 calendar and plan to attend. Reservations are necessary, RSVP to the church office by calling 814-833-7701 x202 or email marybeth.whitman@olp.org. by **Wed., Jan. 8th**

****Masses this Week** *Monday, Dec. 23rd and Tuesday, December 24th*- Days of Late Advent; *Wednesday, Dec. 25th*- the Nativity of the Lord (Christmas); *Thursday, Dec. 26th*- St. Stephen, the First Martyr; *Friday, Dec. 27th*- St. John, Apostle and Evangelist; *Saturday, Dec. 28th*- the Holy Innocents, Martyrs.

****Our Neighbor's Place** Recently, we shared that OLP is **taking the lead in providing volunteers and supplies at Our Neighbor's Place the week of January 15-21, 2025** and asked for your support. **Please see page 8 on how you can help.** In the past we have had parishioners volunteer with other faith communities in their weeks to support the shelter; but this is the first time OLP is taking on an entire week. I am excited that we are taking this step under the leadership of our new Community Outreach Coordinator, Andy Heinlein. I have no doubt that you will do an outstanding job in helping us do this. This is such a great opportunity to live out the Corporal Work of Mercy of providing shelter for the homeless in our Catholic/Christian tradition. My hope is that we can even expand into more weeks if that becomes necessary.

****Vatican Eucharistic Miracle Exhibit** We have extended the time for this exhibit since Advent was thrown off by the big storm. We will rotate through the 3 sets of panels after the Christmas Season from Mon., Jan. 13th to Sun., Feb. 2nd.

****Genuflection During the Creed on Christmas Day (and other times)** 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, it's 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."

MARCH FOR LIFE WASHINGTON, DC JANUARY 24, 2025

LET'S MAKE EVERY LIFE GREAT AGAIN!

52ND ANNUAL TRIP

Depart from Erie on Thursday evening, January 23, 11 p.m.

March in Washington, DC on Friday, January 24

Return Saturday morning, January 25 about 1:30 a.m.

- ✓ \$90 / seat
- ✓ Early reservations recommended.
- ✓ Sponsorship inquiries are welcome!
- ✓ peopleforlife.org/january2025
- ✓ www.facebook.com/MarchforLifeBusTrip
- ✓ Please call or e-mail with questions.

PEOPLE FOR LIFE

1625 W. 26th St., Erie
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 1126; Erie, PA 16512
(814) 862-1333 * (814) 459-1333
office@peopleforlife.org
www.PeopleforLife.org

OLP Families Together Presents

Adult Night Out

Escape the winter blues with OLP. . .

Saturday
JAN 25TH
6:00-8:00pm

“

We get it, you're busy and tired with juggling the demands of daily life. . .



. . . BUT "laughter is the language of the soul." We want to help you develop a strong, healthy, faithful and fun relationships by giving you a night out. All are welcome: couples, singles, girls night, guys night.

We've got it all covered: fun, food and a night of laughter with local comedian Lisa Chimenti, babysitting available.



No Cost
Registration
Required

REGISTER AT WWW.OLP.ORG OR BY EMAILING
MICHELLE AT michelle.ohmer@va.gov

Christmas Mass Schedule

SUNDAY, December 22, 2024

Fourth Sunday of Advent

- 7:30AM Attilio Ciccozzi - Ehrman Family
 9:00AM Richard Brazus - Wife, Marcia
 11:00AM Living & Deceased Members of OLP
 4:30PM Andrew Novak - Family



TUESDAY, December 24, 2024

- 7:00AM Robert Wieczorek - Family

Christmas Eve

- 5:00PM Peggy & John Pulice - Family
 7:30PM Michael & Marianne Fetzer -
 Tom & June Carr

Midnight 12:00AM

- Living & Deceased Members of OLP

MONDAY, December 23, 2024

- 7:00AM Don DiPlacido - Family
 12:10PM Jerry Kenwood - Sister, Joan

WEDNESDAY, December 25, 2024

The Nativity of the Lord - Christmas

- 10:00AM Albert & Dorothy Krimp -
 Gary & Cheryl Carver



THURSDAY, December 26, 2024

- 7:00AM Gertrude Milkowski -
 Daughter, Nancy
 12:10PM Jean Yurkovic -
 Mary & Dave Dombrowski



FRIDAY, December 27, 2024

- 7:00AM John Wojtkielewicz - Family
 12:10PM Lawrence & Patricia Smith -
 Family

SATURDAY, December 28, 2024

- 8:00AM Colleen Long - Belinda Mozdy
 5:00PM Edward Karpinski -
 Jackie, Dan & Family

SUNDAY, December 29, 2024

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph

- 7:30AM Edward Chimenti, Jr. - EJ & Judy Johns
 9:00AM Hank & JoAnne Starr - Holmes Family
 11:00AM Walter Schreiber, Jr. - Family
 4:30PM Living & Deceased Members of OLP

MONDAY, December 30, 2024

- 7:00AM Janet Eisert - Richard Wingenbach
 12:10PM Marcy Lubin - Family

TUESDAY, December 31, 2024

- 7:00AM Linda Platz - Family
 10:00AM Norma Kalie - Husband, Jim
Vigil:
 5:30PM Don & Rinda Pulice - Cheryl Bennett
 11:00PM Holy Hour for Peace

WEDNESDAY, January 1, 2025

The Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God

- 10:00AM Giuseppina Iantomasi - Friend

RING IN THE NEW YEAR WITH A

HOLY HOUR FOR PEACE

With all that has happened around the world and in our community, there is no better way to start 2025. Join us in the church beginning at 11:00pm with Eucharistic Adoration and prayer for the new year.

47TH ANNUAL

PRO-LIFE BREAKFAST

January 18, 2025 ♦ 9 A.M.
 Bayfront Convention Center
 Erie, Pennsylvania

GUEST SPEAKER
KAYLEE STOCKTON
 Nursing Student
 Single Mom at Eighteen
 Students for Life Activist
 School Shooting Survivor

See you at the Breakfast!

Adults & Teens...\$28
 Ages 3-12...\$22 • Under 3...Free
Reservations due by January 10
 Early reservations are appreciated.
 Reservations are required. Please mail name(s), address, and phone number with a check payable to "People for Life" or visit our website to use a credit or debit card.
FREE CHILDCARE WITH FUN ACTIVITIES

PEOPLE FOR LIFE
 1625 W. 26th Street
 P.O. Box 1126
 Erie, PA 16512
 For more information:
 (814) 882-1333 • (814) 459-1333
 office@peopleforlife.org
www.PeopleforLife.org
 Facebook.com/ProLifeBreakfast

Merry Christmas

THE SAVIOR IS BORN



Thank you for joining us for Christmas Mass at Our Lady of Peace! We are blessed to have you here and want you to know how welcome you are here. Whether you are a regular attendee or just passing through the area to visit family, we are honored by your presence!

If you have been away from the church, we welcome you back. You have been missed by our parish family and by the spiritual community you are connected to. The church is not complete without you, and we hope you know that you are not complete without us. God calls us to live out our faith in community and not just on our own because we depend on each other and support each other in our needs. Know that we would love to consistently walk with you through the year as pilgrims on a journey for life.

This year, our parish did a Eucharistic Consecration together; where we explored the abundant reasons why the Eucharist is such a gift to us and how the Eucharist truly is God offering His life to us as “food for our journey.” God desires to bless your year ahead with growth in that “peace beyond all understanding” through your presence with us throughout the year.

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



Frequently Asked Questions

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.")

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

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 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.

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

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.

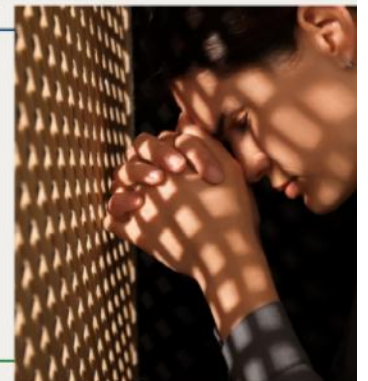
Confession is offered on:

Wednesdays from 11:15am - Noon

Saturdays from 8:30-9am

Saturdays from 3:45-4:45pm

or by appointment. Fr. Rich and Fr. Nick 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.



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 is open through June 2025.

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.

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. To schedule music for your ceremony, contact Brian Kuzmin, Director of Music and Liturgy at 814-833-7701 x203 or brian.kuzmin@olp.org.



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.

Information on the annulment process is provided by The Office of the Marriage Tribunal, Diocese of Erie and can be found at www.eriercd.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



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.

Erie Winters are long and cold; but you can help "warm the hearts of the homeless."



OUR LADY OF PEACE AT "OUR NEIGHBOR'S PLACE"

WHAT: OLP will coordinate the overflow shelter needs for one week in January.

WHEN: Wednesday, January 15th–
Tuesday, January 21st

WHERE: Our Neighbor's Place is located at 450 E. 16th St., Erie.

PLEASE CONSIDER VOLUNTEERING TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE FOR OUR HOMELESS COMMUNITY.

- Pray for a successful week
- Volunteer to provide food/snack for a day
- Make a financial contribution

CALL OR EMAIL ANDY TO GET INVOLVED

Andy Heinlein, Outreach Coordinator

 814-833-7701 x 206

 andrew.heinlein@olp.org

HOW CAN I HELP?



Sign up to volunteer at the shelter



Donate Gift Cards of \$5 to McDonalds, Tim Horton's or Country Fair



Donate EMTA Bus Pass for 5 rides. Purchase at <https://ride-the-e.com/fares-2/>



Volunteer to prep nightly snack/breakfast bags



Donate clothing items:
Women's sweatshirt/pants M, L, XL
Women's briefs sz. 6-10
Men's sweatshirt/pants M, L, XL, XXL
Men's t-shirts (white) XL, XXL
Men's socks

DROP OFF ITEMS AT THE CHURCH OFFICE



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 BUT NOT SURE HOW?

- Register your family with the parish
- Check out the "events" page on our website, 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 by clicking on the FORMED image. Enter your name & email and create a password.



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:

Jan. 18, Feb. 15, Mar 15

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!

FAITH FORMATION NEWS

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

Dec. 22 Class 9:15 to 10:45, grade 3 Parent Day, Church Activity form due for Gr. 1-5

Dec. 29 No Religious Ed. Classes

Grade 9, Confirmation class meets from 5:30-7:30PM in the church Social Room.

Dec. 22 Class 5:30 to 7:30PM, Bishop letter part 2 & Sponsor form due

Dec. 29 No Confirmation class

Questions: Tammie Mang, Faith Formation Director, 814-838-9983 or tammie.mang@olp.org

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OLP Bible Study invites you to join us in the study of three of St. Paul's PRISON LETTERS.

THE LETTERS OF ST. PAUL TO THE PHILIPPIANS, COLOSSIANS, AND PHILEMON

January 7 - February 26, 2025

WHEN: Tuesday nights: 7:00 to 8:30pm
January 7, 2025 through February 25, 2025

OR

Wednesday mornings: 10:00 to 11:30am
January 8, 2025 through February 26, 2025

WHERE: Our Lady of Peace Church Social Room

This is an 8-week Bible Study
Pre-Registration is required by December 20, 2024.

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.

Our Lady of Peace Bible Study: Philippians, Colossians & Philemon

You will be registered upon receipt of payment-due by December 20, 2024

Make checks payable to: Our Lady of Peace Church

Name _____

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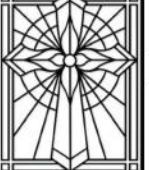
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