



Our Lady of Peace

Jesus,
remember me

Luke 23:35-43

November 23, 2025

Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe

2401 West 38th Street, Erie, PA 16506

Parish Office Phone

814-833-7701

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

Mrs. Emily Fluegel

School Phone

814-838-3548

School Website

www.ericcatholic.org

Parish Pastoral Team

Pastor

Rev. Rich Toohey

(fr.rich@olp.org)

Parochial Vicar

Rev. Luke Daghir

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

Youth Ministry

Miss Sarah Beaver

Mr. Chandler Villanueva

Outreach Coordinator

Mr. Andrew Heinlein

Coordinator of Adult Formation

Sister Kathleen Dietz, FSO

Maintenance

Mr. Michael Przepierski

Pastoral Council President

Dr. Herb Morrow

Finance Council Chairman

Ms. Rami Sorge

Parish Leadership Team

Fr. Rich Toohey, Gina Adams,

Warren Beaver,

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:

9AM-3PM Edie 814-651-5952

3PM-9PM Barb 814-392-8348



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.

November 2025

23rd Cereal / Breakfast Bars

30th Juice / Mac 'n Cheese



Pantry is OPEN November 25

(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 who are unable to attend the 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 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 - How worthy is the Lamb who was slain, / to receive power and divinity, / and wisdom and strength and honor. / To him belong glory and power for ever and ever.

First Reading - The Lord said to David, "You shall shepherd my people Israel" (2 Sam 5:1-3).

Psalm - Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord (Psalm 122).

Second Reading - Thanks to the Father who has made you fit to share in the inheritance of the holy ones in light (Colossians 1:12-20).

Gospel - Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom (Luke 23:35-43).

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: A King Above All

The soldiers also mocked him, ...saying, "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!" There was also an inscription over him, "This is the King of the Jews." (Luke 23:36-38)

Adults: In what ways is Jesus the ruler of your life?

Kids: How can you show that you honor Jesus as the King of your life?

OF KINGS AND KINGSHIP

Americans have an uncomfortable relationship with kings. The American Revolution was fought for independence from King George, after all. Nonetheless, today every Catholic church around the world celebrates the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe. Today's feast invites us to look beyond our national loyalties and rejoice in our primary identity. We are children of God in Jesus, Christ the King. Our readings help us consider what it's like to belong to God's kingdom. The book of Samuel captures the deep longing of the Israelites for a king to shepherd them. Saint Paul reminds the Colossians that we belong to the kingdom of Christ, whose power he praises in a beautiful hymn. Finally, Luke's Gospel calls to mind the kind of king Jesus chooses to be—a suffering servant, a man for others. By sacrificing his life for us, Jesus throws open the gates of Paradise.

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MASS INTENTIONS

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 2025

7:00AM Margaret Ignaczak - Barrett Family

12:10PM Linda & Jack Dann - Family

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 2025

7:00AM Kathy Anysz - Andrea & Felix Orzechowski

12:10PM Deceased Members of the Blacker Family - Family

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 2025

7:00AM Anita Cassano - Bill & Tamara Swick

12:10PM Catherine Habursky - Family

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 2025

Thanksgiving Day

9:00AM Patricia Miklos - Family



Please bring your food and monetary donations for the Millcreek Food Pantry to Mass.

Church Offices are closed Thursday, November 27th through Monday, December 1st and will reopen on Tuesday, December 2nd.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 2025

7:00AM Jeanne Johannesmeyer -

OLP Knights of Columbus

12:10PM Martin Pushchak - Friends of Theresa Sipple

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 2025

8:00AM Patty Ann Miklos - Family

5:00PM David Hanlon - Family

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 2025

First Sunday of Advent

7:30AM Helen Molder - Family

9:00AM Andrew Polakowski - Family

11:00AM Andrew & Martha Kosiorek - Family

4:30PM Living & Deceased Members of OLP

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 Carol Ann Grieshaber; for Christine Visosky; for Larry Heinlein; for Joan Wieszyk, mother of Rose Ann Gutting; and for Msgr. Casimir Bogniak. May their family and friends find hope and consolation through their faith in the resurrected Lord.

Daily at 11:40AM All are welcome!

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.



Readings for the Week of November 23rd

Monday: Dn 1:1-6, 8-20; Dn 3:52-56; Lk 21:1-4

Tuesday: Dn 2:31-45; Dn 3:57-61; Lk 21:5-11

Wednesday: Dn 5:1-6, 13-14, 16-17, 23-28; Dn 3:62-67; Lk 21:12-19

Thursday: Thanksgiving Day:

Sir 50:22-24; Ps 113:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8;

1 Cor 1:3-9; Lk 17:11-19

Friday: Dn 7:2-14; Dn 3:75-81; Lk 21:29-33

Saturday: Dn 7:15-27; Dn 3:82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87; Lk 21:34-36

Sunday: Is 2:1-5; Ps 122:1-9; Rom 13:11-14; Mt 24:37-44

A Family Perspective

Today's gospel reminds us the Kingdom of Heaven is not like Disney's Magic Kingdom. Admission to Christ's Kingdom is paid with the currency of acceptance, forgiveness, attention to the poor, and love of one's enemy.

SANCTUARY LAMP - The lamp is burning this week in memory of Deceased Members of the Blacker Family - Family.

CHAPEL LAMP - The lamp is burning this week in memory of Bob Fuller - Wife, Kathy.

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:

Nov. 23: Heidi A.

Nov. 24: Mary Ann A., Magherita H., Audrey & Robert H.

Nov. 25: Christine O.

Nov. 26: Cynthia B., Dave W., Joe S., Deb T., Corky Y.

Nov. 27: Ann R.

Nov. 28: Ann F., Michael M.

Nov. 29: Linda M., Janet A.

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

If you would like to join the OLP 31 Club, please call Dave or Kathy Wayman at 814-397-6443. 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 Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe! This is the last Sunday of our church year and another opportunity to proclaim to each other and our world that Jesus Christ is our King and the King of the Universe! Our Incense and chants at Mass are small but significant ways that we honor our Lord and King, Jesus Christ at Mass this weekend. The crown over the tabernacle in the church is a reminder of this great title we give to Jesus who is always present to us at every Mass and remains substantially present in the tabernacle 24/7. Please see below for how you can join us in prayer on this special day.

As we look forward to starting a new liturgical year next weekend with the First Sunday in Advent, I wanted to inform you of an adjustment we will be making at Mass. But first some background... when COVID hit in 2020, we started saying the Spiritual Communion Prayer before or after the Communion Procession for those who were attending Mass via livestream through the Our Lady of Peace YouTube Channel. This was a way to help them ask for grace at the moment of Holy Communion online even if they could not receive Holy Communion and be there in person. We have continued that practice for the past 5 years as we have livestreamed our 9am Mass for those who may have still been weary of returning to Mass or unable to do so.

We have learned that technically the Spiritual Communion Prayer is not part of the Rite of the Catholic Mass, the parish staff and liturgy committee feel it is a good time to stop saying the this prayer verbally at the livestream Mass and to encourage our online participants to say the prayer on their own. For the first few weeks we will prompt the livestream congregation to say the prayer on their own and after that no mention of the spiritual communion prayer will be made at Mass. We will include the prayer in description on our YouTube livestream for Masses. Below is the Spiritual Communion Prayer we have been using:

"My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Blessed Sacrament.

I love You above all things,

and I desire to receive You into my soul.

Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart.

I embrace You as if you were already there, and I unite myself wholly to You.

Never permit me to be separated from You.

Amen." *(Saint Alphonsus Liguori)*

On a related note, I want to clarify that if you are physically able to be at Mass in person, that watching/praying the Mass online is not a valid way to attend Mass each week. I am surprised to still hear people say that they are being told by others that attending Mass online fulfills the "first Catholic precept ("You shall attend Mass on Sundays and holy days of obligation.") that requires the faithful to participate in the Eucharistic celebration when the Christian community gathers together on the day commemorating the Resurrection of the Lord." (taken from paragraph 2042 of the Catechism of the Catholic Church). One of the ways God brought good from the

cross of COVID was to motivate parishes like OLP to figure out how to provide online Mass for those who are homebound. It was not to allow those who could physically be at Mass a way to fulfill the obligation by staying at home on their own free will. If you miss Mass on the weekend, it is good for you to watch the Mass online to still be connected with us and to hear the message but you should still get to confession and commit to being at Mass physically the next week.

If you have questions or comments about this, feel free to contact me as always. May God bless our last week of the liturgical year 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...

****Christ the King Adoration, Solemn Evening Prayer and Benediction**

We did not have a holy hour of Eucharistic Adoration in November but instead will have extended hours of private adoration of our Eucharistic King and Lord this **Sunday, November 23rd from 12 Noon until 4:15pm and 5:15-6pm. At 6pm we will have Solemn Evening Prayer for the Solemnity of Jesus Christ, King of Universe followed by Benediction around 6:30pm.** This is a wonderful opportunity to honor Jesus Christ as our King on this special feast!

****This Thursday, November 27th we will celebrate Thanksgiving Day with a Mass of Thanksgiving to God at 9:00am.** You are encouraged to bring donations of non-perishable foods or monetary donations that you will bring forward during the Offertory at Mass. We will continue the opportunity to bring forward donations, food and monetary, at all Masses throughout the weekend (November 27-30).

****Masses this Week** *Monday, Nov. 24th- St. Andrew Dung-Lac and Companions (Vietnamese Martyrs from 17th-19th Centuries); Tuesday, Nov. 25th- St. Catherine of Alexandria, Virgin and Martyr (4th Century North Africa); Wednesday, Nov. 26th and Friday, Nov. 28th- Weekdays in Ordinary Time; Thursday., Nov. 27th- Mass in Thanksgiving to God; Saturday, Nov. 29th- Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of Divine Hope.*

****#iGiveCatholic 2025** Join Catholics around the world in support of the mission of our church and ministries on December 2. We reflect with grateful hearts on our blessings and are compelled to act out of gratitude; uniting on **#iGiveCatholic** giving day, sharing what we have and preserving our Catholic heritage for generations. Early giving began November 17th and donations to OLP will go towards building up support for the Parish Vision and Re-Creation plan with a goal to raise \$45,000. Use the envelope you received in the mail or the one in this bulletin.

****Thank you to our 2026 Calendar Sponsors:** Beer and Pop Warehouse, E.C.C.A Payroll and Tax Service, First National Bank, Robin Keisel, Manager and Vice President, Knights of Columbus OLP Council 11454, Maleno Real Estate and Scott Enterprises. Please take one per family.



****Sunday, Nov. 16, 2025, was the World Day of the Poor, a day established by Pope Francis in 2017 for Catholics to "reflect on how poverty is at the very heart of the Gospel." The theme for 2025 is *You are my hope* (Ps 71:5). "Amid life's trials, our hope is inspired by the firm and reassuring certainty of God's love, poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit," wrote Pope Leo XIV in his message for the day. "The living God is in fact 'the God of hope' (Rom 15:13), and Christ, by his death and resurrection, has himself become 'our hope.'" (1 Tim 1:1). Pope Leo said that the poor "can be witnesses to a strong and steadfast hope, precisely because they embody it in the midst of uncertainty, poverty, instability, and marginalization," not being able to "rely on the security of power and possessions." Pope Leo also reminded us that "the gravest form of poverty is not to know God."**

After the Year of Mercy in 2016, Pope Francis said he wanted to set aside a day so that, throughout the world, Christian communities could become even greater signs of Christ's charity for those in need. We are called, Pope Francis wrote in his first World Day of the Poor message, "to draw near to the poor, to encounter them, to meet their gaze, to embrace them, and to let them feel the warmth of love that breaks through their solitude. Their outstretched hand is also an invitation to step out of our certainties and comforts, and to acknowledge the value of poverty in itself." The pope said that for Christ's disciples, "poverty is, above all, a call to follow Jesus in his own poverty," and he asked Catholics to take as their example St. Francis of Assisi, who kept his gaze fixed on Christ, allowing him to see and serve the poor.

I take this day focused on the poor to remind you of the ways we serve the poor in this season of Fall and Winter:

1. "Coats for Kids" drive hosted by Inter-Church Ministries in October.
2. Collection of desserts for the West Millcreek Food Pantry Thanksgiving Dinners through November 23rd.
3. Collection of non-perishable food items at all Masses, November 24th through November 30th (including Thanksgiving Mass on Thursday, November 27th) for the West Millcreek Food Pantry.
4. Advents Service Project: Donations of Gift Cards for the Shining Star Project for St. Martin Center Christmas Gift Distribution now until December 8th.
5. Advent Service Project: Donations of toiletries and cleaning supplies for the West Millcreek Food Pantry families, now through December 14th. The items are packed at our Advent Community Gathering on Tuesday, December 16th.
6. Opportunities to volunteer at Emmaus Soup Kitchen and Erie City Mission as part of our regular OLP monthly commitments.
7. Volunteer for the Our Neighbors Place Overflow Shelter for OLP's week of service, January 14-20, 2026 (there will be a signup weekend of December 20-21).
8. Keep an eye on the parish bulletin and weekly email for other opportunities to serve the poor of our community.

I thank the OLP Outreach Committee led by JoAnn Barnes and our Parish Outreach Coordinator, Andy Heinlein, for all they do to help organize and execute these efforts. I have said it before and I will say it again; I believe one significant way the Catholic Church is going to reclaim credibility in our society after the challenges we have faced is a renewed commitment to serving the poor and needy in our community. So let's all be part of that renewed commitment by doing our part in serving those most in need in our community!



12 "Knights" of Christmas

RAFFLE

84 Prizes

There will be 12 winners chosen and each will get to choose 7 prizes from the list on the back of the ticket.

Winners will be drawn on Saturday, December 13th

On Saturday, December 20th each winner will choose a prize and then continue in rotation until all prizes are gone.

Tickets: \$10 for 1
or \$20 for 3



*Tickets are available
in the church office*



ADVENT EVENING

WITH ST. JOHN HENRY NEWMAN,
Doctor of the Church

Join OLP and Fr. Nick Rouch, Vicar General of the Diocese of Erie for an evening of prayer, reflection and Adoration guided by the wisdom of St. John Henry Newman.

Let us pause amid the busyness of the season to seek silence, light and hope.

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 9
6:30-7:30PM
IN THE CHURCH**



"Year passes after year silently; Christ's coming is ever nearer than it was. O that, as He comes nearer earth, we may approach nearer heaven!"

OUR LADY OF PEACE
2401 W. 38TH ST.

FAITH FORMATION NEWS

Grades 1-8: Classes meet in the school & church basement.

Nov. 23 Classes 9:15-10:45AM,
Faith Formation Mass day at 11:00AM

***Grade 6-8 attend a Youth Group night:**
Nov. 25th

Grade 9 Confirmation class: Classes meets from 5:30-7:00PM in the Church Social Room.

Nov. 23 Classes 9:15-10:45AM

Nov. 14 Confirmation Youth Group Night 6:30-8:30PM

***Confirmation students attend a Youth Group night:**
Nov. 26th (Chic Fil-A)

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

Special Collection: Thank You

Local Needs Collection

(formally Catholic Campaign for Human Development)

Thank you for your generous support last week for the collections for the Local Needs Collection (Formally Catholic Campaign for Human Development! As a parish, monies raised will support those on the margins who live in poverty in the United States. If you missed the collection, it's not too late to give.

We are grateful for your support!

Prepare the way of love this Advent

Parish Advent Service Project:

Millcreek Food Pantry. . . The parish is hosting a Community Advent Experience on **Tuesday, December 16th**. We will be making care packages for the families of the Millcreek Food Pantry.

The following items are needed:

laundry detergent	fabric softener	tissues
cleaning products	dish detergent	toilet paper
deodorant (men/women)	shampoo	paper towels
soap/bodywash	toothbrush/paste	
razor/feminine products	diapers	

There are 150 families that regularly rely on the Millcreek Food Pantry for their daily needs.

St. Martin Center Shining Stars. . .

\$25-\$50 Gift cards from Target, Walmart, Kohl's, McDonalds or Little Caesars are needed by Tuesday, December 9th. The parish is sponsoring 175 children again this year.

You can make a difference in the life of a child this Christmas.

Drop off donations in the "Advent Project" bins in the vestibule



ST. MARK SEMINARY

"What is God calling me to do with my life?"



If you've ever asked yourself that question, please join us for a discernment weekend at St. Mark Seminary. This opportunity is for any College-age, Catholic male, 18 or older, who is interested in learning more about the priesthood. There is no cost to attend.

**SATURDAY,
DECEMBER 6 -
SUNDAY,
DECEMBER 7**



**TO REGISTER: CONTACT FR. SCOTT JABO,
VOCATION DIRECTOR, AT 814-824-1198
OR SWJABO@ERIERCD.ORG**

DOWNLOAD OUR NEW MOBILE APP NOW!

nwpaFaith:

nwpaFaith connects Catholics in NW PA across the Diocese.

It's the place to get Parish and Diocesan news, sign up for events, read the daily readings, make a donation to the church, even print out your current Giving Statement.



MAKING IT EASY TO ENGAGE IN THE MISSION OF OLP!

www.olp.org



Yard Signs Available:

These yard signs, with the metal stake, are available in the church office.

PRAY FOR OUR NATION

Happy New Liturgical Year



Happy New Year!

Yes, happy new year to all Catholics – not in 5 weeks but now!

With the first Sunday of Advent, the Church begins its new year – a new liturgical year, that is. Just as the earth has its seasons through which it cycles year after year, so the Church has seasons through which it cycles following the birth, life, death, resurrection and ascension of Our Lord, year in and year out.

The liturgical year consists of a seasonal (also known as temporal) cycle and a sanctoral cycle. As Vatican II's document on the liturgy tells us, in the seasonal cycle, known as the Proper of Seasons, the Church once again lives the whole "mystery of Christ, from the incarnation and birth until the ascension, the day of Pentecost, and the expectation of blessed hope and of the coming of the Lord" (Sacrosanctum Concilium #102). In the sanctoral cycle, known as the Proper of Saints, the Church celebrates and holds up as examples the martyrs and saints already with Christ in Heaven, giving special place of honor to the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of Our Lord.

The liturgical year is made up of six seasons:

- **Advent** - four weeks of preparation for the celebration of Jesus' birth · Christmas - recalling the Nativity of Jesus Christ and his manifestation to the peoples of the world ·
- **Lent** - a six-week period of penance in preparation for the celebration of the Easter Triduum ·
- **Sacred Paschal Triduum** - the holiest "Three Days" of the Church's year, where the Christian people recall the suffering, death, and resurrection of Jesus ·
- **Easter** - 50 days of joyful celebration of the Lord's resurrection from the dead and his sending forth of the Holy Spirit ·
- **Ordinary Time** - divided into two sections (one span of 4-8 weeks after Christmas Time and another lasting about six months after Easter Time), wherein the faithful consider the fullness of Jesus' teachings and works among his people ·

The liturgical year is also reflected in the readings at Mass. The Sunday readings follow a three-year cycle, Year A, Year B and Year C. Year A uses readings from the Gospel of Matthew, Year B from the Gospel of Mark and Year C from the Gospel of Luke, with readings from the Gospel of John on certain Feast Days and for certain particular times, such as on Good Friday. The weekday readings follow a two-year cycle, years 1 and 2.

The mystery of Christ unfolds through the cycle of the liturgical year and calls us to live his mystery in our own lives. This call is best illustrated in the lives of Mary and the other saints, celebrated by the Church throughout the year. The celebration of the saints does not take away from the mystery of Christ, rather both form a marvelous harmony. The **Blessed Virgin Mary** is joined by an inseparable bond to the saving work of her Son, and the feasts of all the **saints** proclaim the wonderful works of Christ in his servants and offer the faithful fitting examples for their imitation .

Advent 2025



First Week of Advent - November 30-December 6

What is Advent? The word Advent is from the Latin *adventus* for “coming” and is associated with the four weeks of preparation of our hearts for Christmas. It is a time for reflection, prayer and action.

Get out your Advent Wreath ahead this year and make it part of your preparations for Christmas to pray daily. Our waiting has begun. As we light the first candle, it creates a dim light against a world that often seems foreboding and dark. Why do we light a candle? We light it because we are a people of hope.

Lord, our God, we praise You for Your Son, Jesus Christ, for He is Emmanuel, the Hope of all people. He is the Wisdom that teaches and guides us. He is the Savior of us all. O Lord, let your blessing come upon us as we light the first (purple) candle of this wreath. May the wreath and its light be a sign of Christ’s promise of salvation. May He come quickly and not delay. We ask this in His holy name. Amen.

Actions for the first week of Advent:

Perform an act of kindness for someone you do not know.

Send a card to a friend or loved one who has lost a family member during this year and let them know you are praying for them and thinking of them.

Make a gift of your time or money to a charitable organization that helps the poor.

Find an opportunity to be the hands of God. Say a kind word and listen with compassion to someone who is suffering.

Second Week

December 7 - 13

Advent is the “trifecta” of celebrations: (1) Celebrating the birth of Christ.

(2) Waiting for Christ’s return to Earth again. (3) Waiting for Christ to come into our hearts.

In a culture where we are so used to instant gratification, we have most certainly lost the art of waiting. We’ve lost the wonder and contemplation needed to appreciate the beauty and mystery of Advent. How can we find Christ at Christmas if we aren’t watching and waiting for Him.

Advent gives us a chance to really commit our minds where it matters most, on the next life.

How do I do that?

Quit being “too busy” to be faithful. It’s a busy time, we get it. You have to do the thing with the thing before the thing and then you have to rush off to another thing, and there’s just not enough time in the day. If you wait for the time, it’ll never come. So make room in your life, in your heart. Turn off your phone. Set aside the to-do list. Light a candle. Say a prayer. Sit in the chapel with Jesus. Use your advent wreath each day.

Lord, our God, we praise You for Your Son, Jesus Christ, for He is Emmanuel, the Hope of all people. He is the Wisdom that teaches and guides us.

He is the Savior of us all.

O Lord, let your blessing come upon us as we light two (purple) candles of this wreath.

May the wreath and its light be a sign of Christ’s promise of salvation.

May He come quickly and not delay.

We ask this in His holy name. Amen.



Actions for the Second Week of Advent:

Send a get-well card for someone in the hospital.

Send a Christmas card to a young person you know. Remind them that you are praying for them, and remind them of the faith significance of the upcoming holiday.

Let God’s mercy and love operate in your own life. Make up with a friend or family member you have been fighting with.

Renew your commitment to a special time of Advent prayer each day throughout the season. Say a prayer sometime today for our country. Learn about Our Lady of Guadalupe and St. Juan Diego.

Pray for St. Lucy’s intercession that we not be blinded by our personal goals, but always seek what God wants us to do.

Third Week

December 14 - 20

The third Sunday of Advent is known as Gaudete Sunday. Gaudete means “rejoice” and reminds us to Rejoice in the Lord always. It expresses our joy and anticipation of the birth of Christ.

Pope Francis reminds us that “We must be awake, alert, vigilant. Jesus warns us: there is the danger of not realizing His coming and being unprepared for His visit. I have recalled on other occasions what Saint Augustine said: ‘I fear the Lord who passes by’...that is, I fear that He will pass by and I will not recognize Him!” Advent is the time we can be shaken out of our lethargy and awakened “from our slumber” to be vigilant always. God conceals Himself in the most ordinary of situations. We should not be waiting for extraordinary events. Make time to look for God’s presence in daily situations. He reminds us that if we are unaware of this reality today, we will be unprepared when He arrives at the end of time.

This week you are challenged to sacrifice all those things that keep you “too busy.” Then, substitute them with Jesus. Give up some part of your daily routine to fit in 20-30 minutes just for Jesus.

- Pray on your afternoon walk or run.
- Dedicate a decade of the Rosary to someone you don’t know who needs prayer.
- Listen to Scripture or a faith-based book/podcast on your work commute.
- Grab your bible and pick out a psalm. Choose a sentence and make it your daily meditation.
- Use your Advent Wreath as part of your daily prayer and rejoice!



Lord, our God, we praise You for Your Son, Jesus Christ, for He is Emmanuel, the Hope of all people. He is the Wisdom that teaches and guides us. He is the Savior of us all.

O Lord, let your blessing come upon us as we light two (purple) candles and the third (pink) candle of this wreath.

May the wreath and its light be a sign of Christ’s promise of salvation.

May He come quickly and not delay.

We ask this in His holy name. Amen.

Actions for the Third Week of Advent:

Make something (bake a cake, draw a picture) to cheer someone up or as a means of sharing the spirit of the season.

Examine your conscience. Are you continually turning towards God?

Give one of your possessions away to the poor or donate to a charity.

Put up your creche (nativity set) or some other symbol to remind you of the coming feast.

Write a letter or send a card telling someone how much you care for them and how much they are loved by God.



Fourth Week

December 21 - 24

What does it mean to “wait well?” First we need to know what it is we are waiting for. Are you “waiting” for Jesus to come into the world? Are you waiting for, longing for Jesus to come into certain areas of your life, your world and your heart? That is what we are waiting for in Advent. So, this week ask yourself where do you want Jesus to enter into your life? Where are you, deep down in your heart, hoping for Him to come into your life?

Ven. Fulton Sheen says “There are two births of Christ, one unto the world in Bethlehem; the other in the soul, when it is spiritually reborn.” “It was the second birth that Saint Paul insisted on when he wrote from prison asking that Christ may dwell in their hearts by faith and that they be rooted and grounded in love. This is the second Bethlehem, or the personal relationship of the individual heart to the Lord Christ.”

Give, give, give. . .

You don't always have to give money. Give your time, talent, and friendship. Be kind to someone who is difficult. Pay someone a compliment who doesn't deserve it. Hold open a door for a stranger. Offer to help someone carry their groceries. Write an inspirational quote on cards and randomly place them on car windshields or neighbors doors. Remember that the smallest act of kindness is still a huge act of love.

Get to Confession. If we believe Advent is the time to celebrate the Second Coming, we should be ready at all times. No one wants to greet Jesus with a dirty soul.

Let's finish Advent humbled and filled with everlasting love for each other so we can show the world what true Christianity is all about. Let's find the peace by allowing Christ to enter our hearts so that one day we can kneel in reverence, bow our heads and know that we have served our purpose in this life: serving and loving.

Lord, our God, we praise You for Your Son, Jesus Christ, for He is Emmanuel, the Hope of all people.

He is the Wisdom that teaches and guides us. He is the Savior of us all.

O Lord, let your blessing come upon us as we light all candles of this wreath.

May the wreath and its light be a sign of Christ's promise of salvation.

May He come quickly and not delay. We ask this in His holy name. Amen.

Action for the Fourth Week of Advent:

Look around you for a sign of God's presence. When you find it, share it with someone.

Gather your family and read the story of the birth of Christ, Luke 2:1-20.

Let Jesus reign in your heart and let love be born anew, like that little Babe on that first Christmas morning 2,000 years ago.



FOR UNTO US A *child* IS BORN.



Christmas Mass Schedule

Christmas Eve
5:00PM, 7:30PM and Midnight

Christmas
10AM

CHRISTMAS GARAGE SALE

Drop off donations at the Scout House:

Monday, November 24th, 6-8pm

Monday, December 1st, 6-8pm

Decorations Sale in the cafeteria:

Saturday, December 6th, 8am-Noon

Sunday, December 7th, 8am-Noon

Clean out your old Christmas decorations and then choose some "new to you" ones. Donations benefit Troop 59 activities.

OLP School Cafeteria: 2401 W. 38th St, Erie

Questions, please contact: Alyson Dana, 814-490-3493



The Knights of Columbus Council
of Our Lady of Peace

Pancake Breakfast Sunday, December 7th

OLP Cafeteria from 8:00AM to 12:30PM

Menu:

Pancakes, Scrambled Eggs,
Hash Browns/Sausage/Juice/Coffee/Tea

Credit Cards Accepted

Adults \$10 Child \$6 (6-15) 5 & Under Free

Join us for the "Best Breakfast Deal" in town,
and support your KofC organization.



Like us on FaceBook:

www.facebook.com/kofc11454/

**Special Guest:
Santa Claus**



*Generosity is a
way of life,
a way to bring
the God's love
to the world.*

#iGIVECATHOLIC



December 2, 2025

**What ministry, parish or school are you
supporting on #Giving Tuesday?**

Bulletin Early Deadlines

The Holidays are fast approaching and with it comes early bulletin deadlines. They are as follows:

For Sunday, Dec. 7, 2025, articles are due by Nov. 24

For Sunday, Dec. 14, 2025, articles are due by Dec. 5

For Sunday, Dec. 21, 2025, articles are due by Dec. 12

For Sunday, Dec. 28, 2025, articles are due by Dec. 15

For Sunday, Jan. 4, 2026, articles are due Dec. 17

For Sunday, Jan. 11, 2026, articles are due Dec. 17

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

Thank you, in advance, for your cooperation.

Inter-Church Ministries Coats for Kids



Thank you to all who donated items for the "Coats for Kids" collection held during the month of October. Through your generosity we were provided 342 coats to needy children and adults in Erie County.

In addition, we also provided 6 large bags of hats and gloves. I would also like to thank Cheryl DiPietro and Julie Markham for coordinating the coat drive. Way to go OLP!

Andy Heinlein, Outreach Coordinator
andrew.heinlein@olp.org



**RISEN & ROOTED
REGIONAL CATHOLIC YOUTH MINISTRY FUNDRAISER**

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 12TH

AT JPT FOUNDATION, 2319 W. 38TH ST., ERIE

TICKETS \$30/EACH

DOORS OPEN @ 5PM; BINGO @6PM
MUST HAVE TICKET TO ENTER-AVAILABLE AT DOOR IF NOT
SOLD OUT. BRING YOUR OWN FOOD & BEVERAGES

BYOB / THEMED BASKETS / 50/50

**NEED BABYSITTING: KID'S NIGHT OUT AVAILABLE IN
OLP SCHOOL CAFETERIA 5:30-9PM FOR GRADES K-5TH**
\$30 PER KID, +\$5 FOR EACH ADDITIONAL IN THE FAMILY
RSVP BY DECEMBER 9TH TO sarah.beaver@olp.org

TO BUY TICKETS EMAIL: sarah.beaver@olp.org OR
youth@stfrancisxaviermckean.org

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 NWPAfaith our new parish App at the App Store
- 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.



Need a rosary repaired?



Just drop off your rosary or rosaries at the office in an envelope with your name and phone number. You will receive a call when it has been repaired and is ready for pick up.

Thank you Dianne for taking on this important ministry.

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:

Dec. 20, Jan. 17, Feb. 21, Mar. 21

Time: 9:45AM to 1:00PM

Where: 11th & French St.

What: Prepare/Serve the Lunch Meal

Time: Any parishioner 15 yrs or older

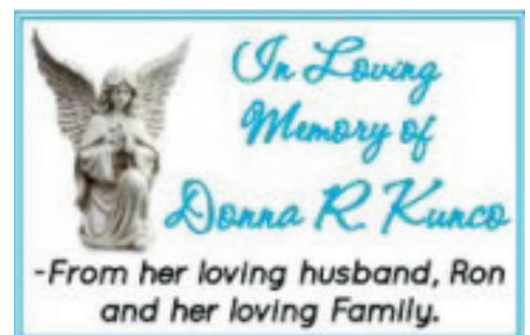
Contact: Scott Barnes, 881-8889



Qualifies for service hours!

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Don't get so caught up in preparing for Christ's coming that you forget to prepare yourself to participate in it.

PRAY'N PACK'N PLAY'N

Community

ADVENT EXPERIENCE 2025

- **Tuesday, December 2nd** - Holy Hour at 6:30pm. Come and join us in prayer for charitable organizations and those they serve.
- **Tuesday, December 9th** - Advent is a season of hope, waiting and growing closer to Christ. Experience Advent in a deeper way through John Henry Newman's timeless words and the quiet of prayer. 6:30-7:30pm in the church.
- **Tuesday, December 16th** - Parish Advent Community Experience with Dinner, packing of our food pantry Service Project items, activities, and cookie decorating. 6:00-8:00pm in the cafeteria.



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