



# *Our Lady of Peace*

**SHE WILL BEAR A SON  
AND YOU ARE TO NAME HIM**

*Jesus*

**BECAUSE HE WILL SAVE HIS  
PEOPLE FROM THEIR SINS.**

*Matthew 1:18-24*

**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.

**December 2025**

21st Canned: Chicken/Beef/Tuna/Salmon

28th Nut Butters / Jelly, Jam



Pantry is OPEN December 23rd  
(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](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** - You will be given this sign: The virgin shall conceive and bear a son (Isaiah 7:10-14).

**Psalms** - Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory (Psalm 24).

**Second Reading** - God has called us to belong to Jesus Christ (Romans 1:1-7).

**Gospel** - The son born of Mary shall be called Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins (Matthew 1:18-24).

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: Welcoming Light**

When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took Mary as his wife. (Matthew 1:24)

**Adults:** Whom do you find it difficult to welcome in your life? What can you do to overcome that?

**Kids:** What could you do this week to make someone feel welcome, as Joseph welcomed Mary?

**TRUST IN GOD**

On this final Sunday of Advent our scriptures focus on the historical birth of Jesus, who is son of David and Son of God, child and king, Jesus and Emmanuel.

Isaiah the prophet begs Ahaz to ask for a sign, to allow God to offer him reassurance of the survival of the Davidic dynasty. The king hypocritically refuses to "tempt the LORD" in that way (Isaiah 7:12), but the prophet foretells the birth of a son, an heir to the throne, who will prove the Lord's enduring protection of God's chosen lineage on the throne of David. The child will be called Emmanuel.

Matthew's reference to this history in his description of the birth of Jesus highlights the contrast between the faithless refusal of trust shown by Ahaz, and the complete trust in God shown by Mary and Joseph in bringing about the birth of Jesus Christ.

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



# Volunteer Appreciation DINNER

Saturday, January 24th

6:00 PM - SCHOOL CAFETERIA

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

## Volunteers Plant

SEEDS  
OF  
Kindness



RSVP by Wednesday, January 12th  
call the office at 814-833-7701  
or email [olp@olp.org](mailto:olp@olp.org)

### Readings for the Week of December 21st

Monday: 1 Sm 1:24-28; Ps 1 Sam 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd;  
Lk 1:46-56  
Tuesday: Mal 3:1-4, 23-34; Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-10, 14;  
Lk 1:57-66  
Wednesday: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Ps 89:2-5, 27, 29;  
Lk 1:67-79  
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  
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]  
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 1:4; Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12; Jn 20:1a, 2-8  
Sunday: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14; Ps 128:1-5; Col 3:12-21 [12-17];  
Mt 2:13-15, 19-23

### BANN III

Drew Heinlein / Tori Sandstrom



**PRAYERS FOR THE DECEASED** - Please pray for  
Brenda Nielsen, sister of Kathy Frawley; for Rhonda Frisina,  
sister-in-law of Gina Adams; for Paul Fiscus; and for  
Christopher Ogden. May their family and friends find hope and  
consolation through their faith in the resurrected Lord.

## 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. 21: George O., Maureen T., Rami S.  
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.

*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 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent and an early Merry Christmas from myself, Fr. Luke, Deacon John, Deacon Ralph and the whole staff and Parish Leadership Team here at Our Lady of Peace Parish! I encourage you to get to the church early for the 5:00pm and Midnight Masses on Christmas Eve. **Prelude music from 4:15-5pm (Selah Praise Band), 7:15-7:30PM (Cantor), and 11:30pm – Midnight (Voice of Peace Choir).** This is a great way to prepare for our Christmas Masses and to show gratitude to our music groups who put much time into preparing for the Christmas Season and help make it so special. We also look forward to hearing the Announcement of Christmas at Midnight Mass.

Here is our Christmas Mass schedule:

**Tuesday, December 24<sup>th</sup> \*There is NO 12:10pm Mass**

**5pm Family Mass**

**7:30pm Mass**

**Wednesday, December 25<sup>th</sup> 12AM Midnight Mass**

**10am Mass**

**\*\*Please note that we only have one daily Mass on Wednesday, December 24<sup>th</sup> at 7am. There is NO 12:10pm Mass that day.**

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

May God bless our 4<sup>th</sup> 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...

**\*\*Last call for Advent Confessions.... After all Sunday Masses this weekend and 6-7pm on Monday, December 22<sup>nd</sup>.**

**\*\*Our Neighbors Place** This weekend we will be promoting OLP's participation in "Our Neighbor's Place" Ministry which is the Emergency Overflow Shelter in Erie overseen by local church communities during the winter months. **OLP will be providing volunteers and resources the week of Wednesday, January 14<sup>th</sup> to Tuesday, January 20<sup>th</sup>.** This is a critical ministry, and I believe it is essential for our parish to be involved; so please be ready to hear more about it and be open to the ways that you can help.

**\*\*Please note that the parish office will be closed starting on Wednesday, December 24<sup>th</sup> at Noon and will reopen on Monday, January 5, 2026. Thank you for understanding the need to give our parish staff a well-deserved break.**

**\*\*Volunteer Appreciation Dinner** Our Parish Volunteer Appreciation Dinner will be Saturday, January 24<sup>th</sup> at 6pm. All volunteers are encouraged to RSVP to the church office by January 12<sup>th</sup>.

**\*\*Masses this Week** Monday, Dec. 22<sup>nd</sup> to Wednesday, Dec. 24<sup>th</sup>. Weekdays in Advent; Thursday, Dec. 25<sup>th</sup> the Nativity of the Lord; Friday, Dec. 26<sup>th</sup> St. Stephen, Protomartyr; Saturday, Dec. 27<sup>th</sup> St. John, Apostle and Evangelist.

**\*\*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 the book **"The Forgotten Way: the St. James Master Plan"** by Matthew Kelly. Matthew Kelly develops a simple yet profound approach to holiness based on the 11 words from the Letter of St. James in the Bible... "Someone who does not trip up in speech has reached perfection." James 3:2. I hope you will take advantage of this gift and allow the wisdom of St. James and Matthew Kelly draw you closer to perfection.

**\*\*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 for 2 and a half weeks. Highlights include the Feast of the Holy Family (Sunday, December 28<sup>th</sup>), Mary, the Mother of God (Thursday, January 1<sup>st</sup>), and the Epiphany (Sunday, January 4<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 Sunday, January 11<sup>th</sup> and we will have Solemn Evening Prayer with Benediction at 6pm to conclude our Christmas celebration.

**\*\*Holy Hour for Peace** We will again "ring in the New Year" with **Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament from 11pm-12 Midnight on New Year's Eve (Wednesday, 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 through a litany of peace. After the Holy Hour there will be time for a champagne toast and fellowship in the rectory.

**\*\*OLP Cursillo 2026** Last year we tried something new in collaboration with the Cursillo Retreat Movement in our Diocese and it was a great success. For the men's retreat in February 2025, OLP parishioners comprised most of the team and two thirds of the candidates and it was a great boost to both our parish and the Cursillo Movement. So we are going continue that with the Women's Cursillo April 17-19, 2026, at Our Lady of Mercy Church in Harborcreek. I will be one of the spiritual directors, along with Deacon Ralph, and hopefully the lay leader (called a rector) will be as well.

Here's a little more about Erie Cursillo from their website... "Cursillo (kur-SEE-yo) literally means "little course" and is an intense three-day spiritual retreat, the purpose of which is a deep personal encounter with Jesus Christ. Those who experience the Cursillo Movement know it is more than just three days of religious instruction. It is an effort to change the spiritual environment, to bring Jesus Christ into the world." See [www.eriecursillo.org](http://www.eriecursillo.org) for more information or to sign up.

**\*\*Follow up to my homily on hope and new life in the church from the weekend of November 29-30** Several weeks ago I mentioned some hopeful statistics between OCIA (Order of Christian Initiation for Adults) at parishes and college campuses as well as October counts at OLP. I want to repeat them here so you can all see them.

OCIA Participation:

**Significant Increase in OCIA conversions throughout the United States-** The increase is not isolated, as dioceses across the country—including New York, Detroit, Atlanta, Los Angeles, and Washington D.C.—are reporting significantly larger OCIA classes, with some noting their largest numbers in decades. This was also affirmed by many bishops at their latest USCCB meeting in November.

**Significant Growth in Parishes:-** Specific parishes have seen their numbers double or triple in a single year. For instance, St. Joseph's Church in Greenwich Village reported that interest in OCIA tripled, with about 130 people signing up. **At OLP we went from having classes of 3-6 from 2019-2023 to 10 in 2024-25 and now 18 in 2025-26.**

**Growth on Campuses across the U.S.-** Increases of doubling and tripling are reported across the U.S., from large state schools (like Texas A&M, Arizona State, Minnesota., Illinois, Nebraska) to Catholic institutions (like Notre Dame and Gannon).

**Global Trend-** Similar surges in young adult converts are seen in countries like Austria, Canada, France, and the UK.

October counts at OLP:

We reached height in the last 25 years with the average of 3,089 people participating in Mass in October 2004.

From 2004 to 2019, we saw a steady decline to 1,375 average mass attendance in 2019, and reached a low in October 2020 (COVID) with the average of 521 people attending Masses at OLP. Increased to the 900 in 2021 and 2022.

Increased to 1,055 in 2023, 1,140 in 2024 and 1,158 in 2025.

**So, we have seemed to bottom out and are slowly building back up over the last 5 years since COVID.**

Reasons:

**Post-COVID Yearning:** Some church leaders credit a "post-COVID sacramental boom," as people who postponed religious connection during the pandemic now seek community and a deeper sense of purpose.

**Motivations:** Converts and participants often cite various reasons for their interest, including a yearning to connect with something bigger than themselves amid confusing news headlines, the influence of the National Eucharistic Revival, and personal evangelization.

**Let's allow these statistics to be a witness to new life in the church and our parish, and a source of hope!**



UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF  
CATHOLIC BISHOPS

**Key Highlights from the US Bishops  
Conference meeting in Nov. 2025:**

- Immigration: Issued a pastoral message calling for meaningful immigration reform, emphasizing human dignity, secure borders, and protection for migrants, sending it to Pope Leo XIV.  
(<https://www.usccb.org/resources/USCCB%20Special%20Message%20on%20Immigration.pdf>)
- Healthcare Directives: Overwhelmingly approved revisions to the Ethical and Religious Directives, prohibiting gender-affirming interventions in Catholic healthcare settings.
- Elections & Leadership: Elected Archbishop Paul S. Skluzacek as President, Bishop Daniel E. Flores as Vice President, and Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades as Secretary of the USCCB.
- Liturgical Texts: Approved new liturgical Bible text (Catholic American Bible) for 2027 and other liturgical updates.
- National Eucharistic Congress: Approved plans for a major Eucharistic Congress in 2029.
- AI in the Church: Heard a presentation on artificial intelligence as an "evangelical opportunity" for the Church.
- Consecration: Voted to consecrate the U.S. to the Sacred Heart of Jesus in 2026 for the 250th anniversary of the nation's founding.



**OLP COOKS**

PROVIDING MEALS FOR PARISHIONERS IN NEED



We have assembled our cooking team and are ready to begin providing meals for OLP Parishioners in need. If you need a meal or know of a parishioner who needs this ministry, please contact **Maria Prier**.

**YOU are the eyes and ears of the parish. If you know of someone who is having surgery, will be giving birth to a child, experiencing serious illness, or other special circumstances, contact our OLP Cooks Meal Coordinator, Maria Prier. Thank you and let's start cooking!**

Maria Prier, OLP Cooks Meal Coordinator  
[priermaria@gmail.com](mailto:priermaria@gmail.com)  
334-614-3042



# Christmas Mass Schedule

## SUNDAY, December 21, 2025

### Fourth Sunday of Advent

- 7:30AM Living & Deceased Members of OLP  
 9:00AM Jim MacKrell - Family  
 11:00AM Deceased Members of the Harrington-Tenney Families - Family  
 4:30PM Gary Bauschard - Family

## MONDAY, December 22, 2025

- 7:00AM Josephine DeSantis Wise - Barnes Family  
 12:10PM Special Intention for Damon & Meagan Finazzo - Family



## TUESDAY, December 23, 2025

- 7:00AM Jeanne Johannesmeyer - Betsy MacKrell  
 12:10PM Marie Kengersky - Daughter, Sylvia

## WEDNESDAY, December 24, 2025

- 7:00AM Maria Bella Gauna - Family

### *Christmas Eve*

- 5:00PM Peggy & John Pulice - Family  
 7:30PM Living & Deceased Members of OLP  
 Midnight 12:00AM Ralph & Eva Dangelo - Sargent Family

## THURSDAY, December 25, 2025

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

- 10:00AM Eleanor Agnello - Alfred & Caren Naylor

## FRIDAY, December 26, 2025

- 7:00AM Gene Cudny - Corey Ferraro Family  
 12:10PM Gert Milkowski - Daughter, Nancy

## SATURDAY, December 27, 2025

- 8:00AM John Wojtkielewicz - Family  
 2:00PM **Wedding -** Drew Heinlein/Tori Sandstrom  
 5:00PM Edward Karpinski - Jackie, Dan & Family

## SUNDAY, December 28, 2025

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

- 7:30AM Living & Deceased Members of OLP  
 9:00AM Patrick Double - Judy & Randy Whittelsey  
 11:00AM Larrie Dudenhoeffer - Wasielewski Family  
 4:30PM Edward Szymanowski - Wife, Gloria



## MONDAY, December 29, 2025

- 7:00AM Joan Wieszczyk - Ken Tome  
 12:10PM Lawrence & Patricia Smith - Family

## TUESDAY, December 30, 2025

- 7:00AM Joseph Henke - Sister, Dorothy  
 12:10PM Marcy Lubin - Family

## WEDNESDAY, December 31, 2025

- 7:00AM Norma Kalie - Husband, Jim  
 12:10PM Josephine Przybycin - Fred & Evelyn

### *Vigil:*

- 5:30PM Living & Deceased Members of OLP  
 11:00PM Holy Hour for Peace

## THURSDAY, January 1, 2026

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

- 10:00AM Dan Carbo - Family

## FRIDAY, January 2, 2026

### *First Friday Adoration 7:30AM - 7:00PM Benediction*

- 7:00AM Joan Wieszczyk - Jean Verdecchia  
 12:10PM Michael Kilmer - Family

Merry Christmas  
 AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR

Fr. Rich, Fr. Luke,  
 Dea. John, Dea. Ralph and the staff





# Merry Christmas

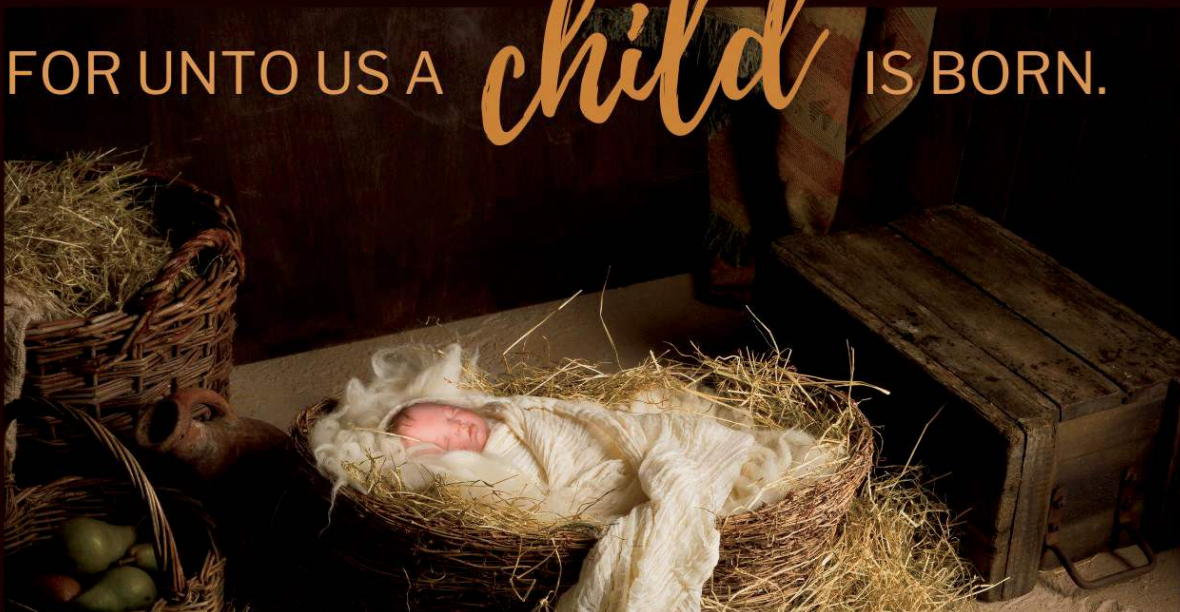
Thank you for joining us for Christmas Mass at Our Lady of Peace! We are blessed to have you and want you to know how welcome you are here. Whether you are a regular attendee or just passing through the area to visit family, we are honored by your presence!

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. You may be feeling overwhelmed. Be at peace. You are not alone! Many former Catholics are returning to the faith after having left. The church is not complete without you. God calls us to live out our faith in community; Catholicism is not a solitary practice. We are all incorporated into the Mystical Body of Christ. We are all pilgrims journeying through life together. . . loving and supporting one another.

We know that life is busy and complicated, but here, at church, you can always come home! So if you, a friend, or family member are feeling that inner pull, that spiritual longing you feel is God drawing you back to himself. Trust God to give you the grace to step in to a deeper relationship, to fill that longing. In our faith community you will find brothers and sisters to walk with, to pray with, to serve with and to grow with. And remember Jesus' own words "I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous people who have no need of repentance." (Luke 15:7)

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

FOR UNTO US A *child* IS BORN.



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 14th–  
Tuesday, January 20th.

**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 for one of the evening (6:30–11pm) or morning (5:30–7am) shifts

### CALL OR EMAIL ANDY TO GET INVOLVED

Andy Heinlein, Outreach Coordinator

☎ 814-833-7701 x 206

✉ [andrew.heinlein@olp.org](mailto:andrew.heinlein@olp.org)

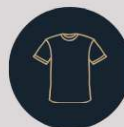
### HOW CAN I HELP?



Sign up to volunteer at the shelter. There is an evening shift with (4) men and (4) women needed and a morning shift with (2) men and (2) women needed for each day of our week



Pray for a successful week for our volunteers and shelter guests.



Donate **NEW** clothing items:  
Women's sweatshirt/pants S–2XL  
Women's briefs sz. 6–10  
Men's sweatshirt/pants S–2XL  
Men's t-shirts (white) S–2XL  
Men's and women's socks

**DROP OFF ITEMS  
AT THE CHURCH OFFICE**





OLP Families Together Ministry  
presents another...

# Adult Night Out



# TRIVIA NIGHT

 JANUARY 31, 2026 

**SAVE THE DATE**

PRIZES AWAIT OUR WINNERS!

Gather your OLP family and friends for an evening of  
fun and friendly competition!

Form a team of up to 6 players OR let us know and  
we'll connect you with a team.

Registration opening soon!



Babysitting  
Available

## FAITH FORMATION NEWS

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

**Dec. 21** Class 9:15-10:45AM, Grade 3 Parent Day, Church Activity form due for Grades 1-5, Mass Day

**Dec. 28** No Religious Ed. Classes

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

**Dec. 21** Class 5:30-7:00PM, Bishop letter part 2 and Sponsor form due

**Dec. 28** No Confirmation Class

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

## OLP PRAYER LINE

The OLP Prayer Line is ready to pray for you!  
Prayer intentions for yourself, someone else or a special intention can be sent in by phone or email.

9:00am - 3:00pm Edie Testa  
at 814-651-5952 or [ejt1125@gmail.com](mailto:ejt1125@gmail.com)

3:00pm - 9:00pm Barb Turner  
at 814-392-8348 or [dylewski49@hotmail.com](mailto:dylewski49@hotmail.com)

If you would like to become a member of the prayer team for this important ministry and pray for your fellow parishioners, contact:

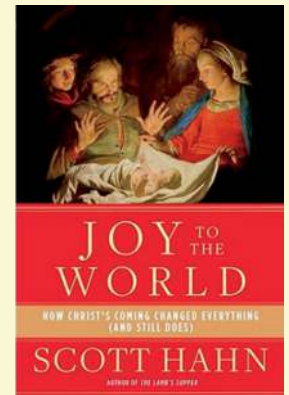
Andrew Heinlein - Outreach Coordinator  
814-833-7701 x 206 or [andrew.heinlein@olp.org](mailto:andrew.heinlein@olp.org)

### Advent book for sale at the OLP Catholic Resource Kiosk

Cost: - \$5

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.



### Watch Our Lady of Peace Mass On Our YouTube Channel

7:00AM Weekdays

8:00AM Saturdays

9:00AM Sundays



Go to [www.olp.org](http://www.olp.org), scroll down to 'Find Us on Social Media,' click on YouTube and you will be connected to our Channel. Once there you can watch previous Masses and also Subscribe by clicking the red Subscribe button.

## Help Support a Missionary! Ablaze



Hi! My name is Katie Benson.

I'm a graduate of MPS and

Franciscan University, and I have been a volunteer in the OLP youth ministry program for the past two years. I am answering God's call to be a missionary with *Ablaze Ministries*, doing parish and school youth ministry in Waco, Texas. To do this, I need your help! I'm looking for **prayer partners** and/or **donors** to support my mission. Please reach out to me at [katie@ablaze.us](mailto:katie@ablaze.us) if you are interested in becoming either!

### Special Collection: Thank You Retirement Fund for Religious Collection

Heartfelt gratitude for your generosity!

"Thank you very much for your donations, always," says Sister Olivia Bellegante, 93, a member of the Franciscan Sisters of Our Lady of Perpetual Help in St. Louis, Missouri. Your gift impacts thousands of senior religious, providing the support they need in their later years.

We are grateful for your support!

## Yard Signs Available:

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







# 12 "Knights" of Christmas

## RAFFLE

### Winners

- |                           |                             |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. OLP School First Grade | 7. Linda Feikles            |
| 2. Kevin Cooney           | 8. Our Lady of Peace School |
| 3. Joanne Deiner          | 9. Rick Mueller             |
| 4. Dennis Sidelinger      | 10. Donald Chludzinski      |
| 5. Joe Spero              | 11. Melanie Forsberg        |
| 6. Virginia Bello         | 12. Brian Cochran           |

Thank you to all who supported the Knights of Columbus raffle.



### PRAYER for a NEW BISHOP

O Almighty God,  
Pour forth the Holy Spirit upon the Holy Father  
and those who assist him  
in the discernment of our new bishop.  
May the one chosen have the strength  
to be a compassionate leader,  
who models humility and joy.  
Grant him the wisdom of Solomon,  
the courage of the apostles,  
and the tenderness of your Son, the Good Shepherd.

We also pray for the Diocese of Erie  
that he is called to serve.  
may we welcome him with open hearts  
and work with him in a spirit of synodality,  
called to listen, collaborate, and build unity.

Through the intercession of the  
Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church,  
St. Joseph, the protector of the Church,  
and St. Patrick, the patron of our diocese,  
may we journey the path of life  
with an unwavering focus  
on the hope we have in Christ.

For he lives and reigns forever and ever. Amen.

Imprimatur, October 28, 2025  
The Most Revrend Lawrence T. Persico, J.C.L., Bishop of Erie



## DECEMBER 2025 RISEN & ROOTED RCYM SCHEDULE

**Dec 16th**-OLP's Community Advent Experience  
6-8:00pm in Cafeteria open to all ages

**Dec 17th**-HS YG at OLP

**Dec 19th**-HS Movie Night at OLP 6:30-9:30pm

**Dec 31st**-11pm Holy hour for Peace at OLP, ring in the  
New Year with Jesus open to all!

**MS/HS YG starts with optional silent Adoration 6-6:30pm, and includes dinner.**

**4th/5th Gr YG includes snacks-if it is an OLP student, they can meet at 3pm in the school lobby**

**Every Thursday 8-9pm there is Eucharistic Adoration with praise & worship at SFX, open to all ages!**

### CONTACT US AT:

Sarah: [sarah.beaver@olp.org](mailto:sarah.beaver@olp.org)

Chandler: [youth@stfrancisxaviermckean.org](mailto:youth@stfrancisxaviermckean.org)



**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 Deceased Members of the Higgins & Dangelo Families - Sargent Family.

## OLP Music Ministry presents an

## Epiphany Concert



January 4, 2026 at 2:00pm  
in the church



# ERIE NIGHT TO SHINE

Night to Shine is an unforgettable WORLDWIDE celebration centered on God's love, honoring and valuing people with SPECIAL NEEDS.

Night to Shine will be happening across 62 countries with over 820 churches participating and here in ERIE!

Our Lady of Peace is the host church for the 9<sup>th</sup> year. This prom night experience is sponsored by the Tim Tebow Foundation where all guests are crowned the kings and queens of the prom.

You can be a part of this awesome night hosted by OLP on Friday, February 13, 2026

- Pray for the success of the event
- Volunteer to be a buddy for a special needs guest at Night to Shine
- Cheer on our guests at the RED CARPET as they are introduced
- Consider making a financial donation to support Night to Shine

Stop by our information table the weekend of January 10<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup>. We will have more details about becoming a buddy, being part of the Red Carpet welcoming team or making a donation. For more info go to <https://www.ntserie.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](http://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](http://www.olp.org) by clicking on the FORMED image. Enter your name & email and create a password.



### Our rosary repair ministry will take a winter pause...



Please hold onto your rosaries that need repair until the Spring. There will be an announcement in April when we will resume.

*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:

Jan. 17, Feb. 21, Mar. 21, Apr 18

Time: 9:45AM to 1:00PM

Where: 11th & French St.

What: Prepare/Serve the Lunch Meal

Time: Any parishioner 15 yrs or older

Contact: Scott Barnes, 881-8889



**Qualifies for service hours!**

## Advertiser of the Week:

Our bulletin is supported through the generosity of the advertisers - many of whom are our parishioners. Most are members of our local community. Please support our advertisers with your patronage. Tell the business owner that you appreciate their support of our parish through their ad in the bulletin.

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 Email: [presqueisleconcrete@yahoo.com](mailto:presqueisleconcrete@yahoo.com)



# Join the Mission

GET INVOLVED. . . DEVELOP YOUR TALENTS,  
DISCOVER NEW INTERESTS AND MAKE NEW FRIENDS

## Living a Life of Faith

Most of us want to do good in the world and have a desire to help others. We recognize that volunteering is something we believe to be a good thing; but finding the time or motivation can prove challenging. Studies have shown volunteering can lower blood pressure and reduce stress. Doing something for others can ward off depression and loneliness and help you to meet new people while giving back to something you are passionate about.

There are many options to get involved in at the parish, so pray about where God is calling you, and get involved. . . together in faith, God calls each of us.

## PARISH COMMUNITY MINISTRIES

### Knights of Columbus

Ministry Lead - Grant Miller  
Contact: grant.t.miller21@gmail.com  
814-981-0184

### Altar Rosary Society

Ministry Lead - Debbie Piotrowski  
Contact: debpio56@gmail.com, 814-812-0122

### Families Together

Ministry Lead - Mike McLaughlin  
Contact: honeymike595@gmail.com, 814-881-1268

### Parish Picnic Committee

Ministry Lead - Cindy McLaughlin  
Contact: honeymike595@gmail.com, 814-572-6051

## COMMUNITY OUTREACH MINISTRIES

### Casserole Club-Maria House

Ministry Lead - Skip & Dottie Glover  
Contact: scottiedippy@gmail.com

### Erie City Mission

Ministry Lead - Scott Barnes  
Contact: scottreagent@verizon.net, 814-881-8889

### Emmaus Soup Kitchen

Ministry Lead - Darrell Meyers  
Contact: darrell.meyers@olp.org, 814-450-3697

### Our Neighbors Place

Ministry Lead - Andy Heinlein  
Contact: andrew.heinlein@olp.org

### St. Patrick Haven

Ministry Lead - Chris Rys  
Contact: chrisrys1016@gmail.com, 814-882-8956

### Serve Erie

Ministry Lead - Darrell Meyers  
Contact: darrell.meyers@olp.org, 814-450-3697

### Sunday Suppers

Ministry Lead - Pete & Debbie Piotrowski  
Contact: petepio56@gmail.com, 814-600-5386

### West Millcreek Food Pantry

Ministry Lead - Scott Barnes  
Contact: scottreagent@verizon.net, 814-881-8889





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 <p><i>In Loving Memory of</i> <b>Donna R. Kunco</b> -From her loving husband, Ron and her loving Family.</p>	 <p><i>Chris Ehrman, Parishioner</i> <b>www.allburnflorist.com</b> <b>1620 W. 8th St. 456-6211</b></p>	 <p><b>IN LOVING MEMORY OF</b> <b>Jennifer L. Turner</b></p>
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