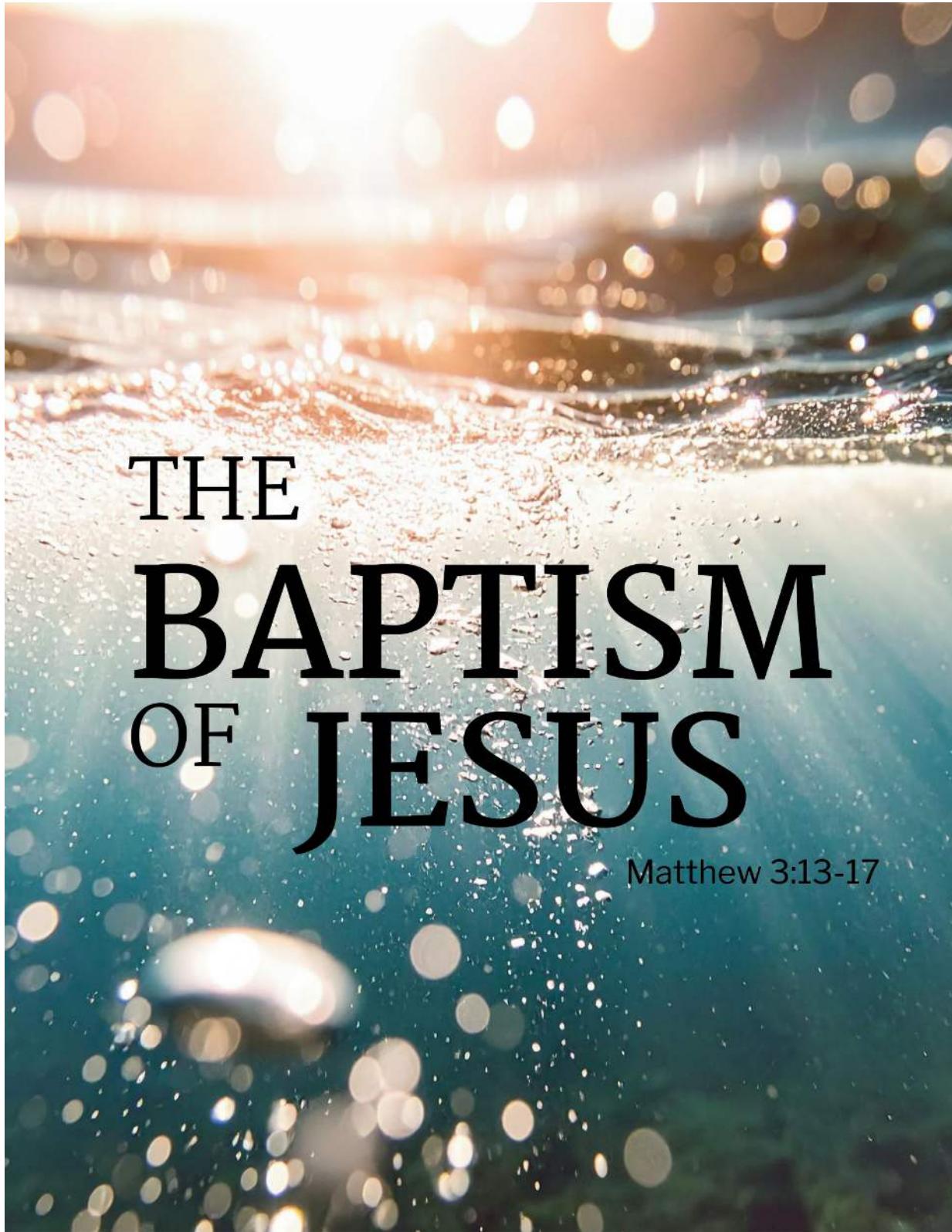




# *Our Lady of Peace*



# THE BAPTISM OF JESUS

Matthew 3:13-17

**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.eriecatholic.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 &amp; 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.

**January 2026**

- 11th Potato Flakes / Gravy / Soup
- 18th Cereal / Pancake Mix / Syrup
- 25th Mac 'n Cheese / Applesauce

**Pantry is OPEN January 13th & 27th  
(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** - After the Lord was baptized, the heavens were opened, / and the Spirit descended upon him like a dove, / and the voice of the Father thundered: / This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.

**First Reading** - Isaiah speaks of the Servant whom the LORD upholds; he shall bring forth justice to the nations (Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7).

**Psalm** - The Lord will bless his people with peace (Psalm 29).

**Second Reading** - Jesus was anointed by God with the Holy Spirit; he went out healing and doing good (Acts 10:34-38).

**Gospel** - A voice comes from heaven proclaiming Jesus as the beloved Son, with whom God is well pleased (Matthew 3:13-17).

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: Pleasing to God**

And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased." (Luke 3:2)

**Adults:** Do you think that God was "well pleased" by your actions in recent weeks? Why?

**Kids:** What good thing could you do this week that would be pleasing to God?

**THIS IS MY BELOVED SON**

This Sunday's celebration of the Baptism of the Lord closes the Christmas season. In the scriptures we see one more epiphany, or manifestation, of the Spirit of God in Jesus—but this time it is as an adult, rather than as a child. Jesus' baptism also serves as the inauguration of his prophetic mission and the messianic age.

Today's reading from Isaiah describes God's chosen Messiah, upon whom God's spirit rests. In the Acts of the Apostles Peter says that "God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power" (Acts 10:38). Finally, in the proclamation from Matthew's Gospel Jesus' baptism in water goes almost unnoticed. The crucial moment comes when the Spirit of God comes upon Jesus and a voice from heaven echoes the words of Isaiah: "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased" (Matthew 3:17). Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

# MASS INTENTIONS

## MONDAY, JANUARY 12, 2026

7:00AM Deceased Members of the Verdecchia Family -  
Kathy Luschini  
12:10PM Donna & Timothy O'Neill -  
Bill & Tamara Swick

## TUESDAY, JANUARY 13, 2026

7:00AM Paul Ragan - Paul Vojtek Family  
12:10PM Patricia Swick - Bill & Tamara  
3:00PM **Mass at LECOM Nursing & Rehab,**  
(4114 Schaper Ave.): Living & Deceased  
Members of the LECOM Community

## WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 14, 2026

7:00AM Mary Ann Toohey - Husband, Jim Toohey  
12:10PM Frank Stolinski - Pat Hardner

## THURSDAY, JANUARY 15, 2026

7:00AM Gene Zarnick, II -Family  
12:10PM Larry Heinlein - Jack & Colleen DeMatteo  
2:00PM **School Mass** - John Ehrman -  
Dudenhoeffer Family

## FRIDAY, JANUARY 16, 2026

7:00AM Gerry Hoffman - Paul Vojtek Family  
12:10PM Mark Mozdy - Fred & Evelyn Fried

## SATURDAY, JANUARY 17, 2026

8:00AM Joseph Kuhar - Dave & Doreen Russo  
5:00PM Jeanne Johannesmeyer - Family

## SUNDAY, JANUARY 18, 2026

### Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

7:30AM Living & Deceased Members of OLP  
9:00AM Dorothy Karpinski - Jackie, Dan & Family  
11:00AM Mr. & Mrs. R. Dudenhoeffer - Family  
4:30PM Leon Mackowski - Family

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

**SANCTUARY LAMP** - The lamp is burning this week in memory of Joan Wieszczyk - Larry & Pam Gutting.

**CHAPEL LAMP** - The lamp is burning this week in memory of Janice Gangemi-Friend, Marcy.

### 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 January 11th

Monday: 1 Sm 1:1-8; Ps 116:12-19; Mk 1:14-20  
Tuesday: 1 Sm 1:9-20; 1 Sm 2:1, 4-8abcd;  
Mk 1:21-28  
Wednesday: 1 Sm 3:1-10, 19-20; Ps 40:2, 5, 7-10;  
Mk 1:29-39  
Thursday: 1 Sm 4:1-11; Ps 44:10-11, 14-15, 24-25;  
Mk 1:40-45  
Friday: 1 Sm 8:4-7, 10-22a; Ps 89:16-19; Mk 2:1-12  
Saturday: 1 Sm 9:1-4, 17-19; 10:1a; Ps 21:2-7;  
Mk 2:13-17  
Sunday: Is 49:3, 5-6; Ps 40:2, 4, 7-10; 1 Cor 1:1-3;  
Jn 1:29-34

### 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.

## 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:

Jan. 11: Dave D.  
Jan. 12: Rose B., Chris P.  
Jan. 13: Sylvia B., Joanie M., Charlie R., Sarah F.  
Jan. 14: Mary Fran P., Peggy R., Alice S.  
Jan. 15: Mary Alice W., Loretta B., Mandy K.  
Jan. 16: Dee Dee B., Kathi K., Laura D., Kevin D.  
Jan. 17: Len & Cathy K., Nancy D.  
Jan. 18: Rachel O.

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...

The Liturgical Season of Christmas comes to end this weekend with our celebration of the Baptism of the Lord (**technically at Evening Prayer which we will celebrate at 6pm this Sunday**). The Baptism of the Lord is the 3rd of the three manifestations of Jesus celebrated in the Christmas Season (with the Angels announcement to the Shepherds at Christmas and the Adoration of the Magi at the Epiphany being the other two). The Baptism of the Lord is the manifestation that is part of Jesus' transition into his public ministry that would ultimately end with his Passion, Death and Resurrection. God the Father confirms Jesus' identity as His Son when he rises out of the waters of the Jordan River. Jesus did not need to be Baptized by St. John for his sake (forgiveness of sin), but rather by participating in it He accomplished several things- He sanctified the waters of this world to become the instrument of Baptism for the rest of time; He validated St. John's baptism and ministry; He set the example for His disciples to follow and reinforced the necessity of Baptism; and as stated above, it allows for the Father to publicly affirm Jesus' identity as the Son of God. In the Gospels, Jesus essentially goes from His Baptism to the Temptations in the Desert which is where the Lent begins on the first Sunday of Lent every year. This is a great weekend to renew our gratitude for our Baptisms in which we, too, became daughters and sons of God!

May God bless our first week of Ordinary Time 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...

**\*\*This Sunday, January 11<sup>th</sup> at 6pm we will celebrate Solemn Evening Prayer and Benediction to conclude the Christmas Season.** Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament begins following the 4:30pm Mass (5:15pm) until the 6pm Prayer and Benediction. This is a beautiful way to end this beautiful season; so I hope you can consider joining us!

**\*\*Our Neighbors Place** This week OLP will be the lead Church in running "Our Neighbor's Place" Ministry which is the Emergency Overflow Shelter in Erie overseen by local church communities during the winter months. Please pray for all those volunteering and for the clients that we will be serving. It's not too late to donate items needed for the shelter. See page 5 for more information on how you can still help.

**\*\*Pro-life Breakfast** The annual Pro-Life Breakfast is next Saturday, January 17<sup>th</sup> at 9am at the Bayfront Convention Center. Our Lady of Peace Parish and our Knights of Columbus typically have several tables and there may be space available. Please contact the office if interested. Note that you contact the Erie People for Life for the actual tickets but the parish office if you want to coordinate sitting with other OLP parishioners.

**\*\*House Blessings** The Christmas Season is the traditional time of year for house blessings. Fr. Luke and I are more than willing to come to your homes and bless them with you. Feel free to call either one of us to set that up.

**\*\*Masses this Week** *Monday, Jan. 12<sup>th</sup>*- Weekday in Ordinary Time; *Tuesday, Jan. 13<sup>th</sup>* St. Hilary, Bishop and Doctor of the Church (4<sup>th</sup> Century convert); *Wednesday, January 14<sup>th</sup>* through *Friday, Jan. 16<sup>th</sup>*- Weekdays in Ordinary Time; *Saturday, Jan. 17<sup>th</sup>*- St. Anthony Abbot (4<sup>th</sup> Century Egyptian Founder of Monasticism).

**\*\*Parish Volunteer Appreciation Dinner** is Saturday, January 24<sup>th</sup> at 6pm in the school cafeteria. Anyone who volunteers in any way is invited to attend. Please call or email the parish office to RSVP, the deadline is Monday, January 12<sup>th</sup>.

**\*\*This weekend we will hear more about Night to Shine, a prom style event for people with special needs in the Erie community.** OLP is again the host church for this event sponsored by the Tim Tebow Foundation, which takes place on Friday, February 13<sup>th</sup> at the Shrine Club. The parish leadership affirms this ministry as part of our parish vision and core values, so we are making even more effort to strengthen our support of it for years to come. The biggest challenge every year is finding ways to fund the \$15,000 cost of the event. If you know of any charitable funds or foundations that would be interested in making a commitment to NTS please call me or Andy Heinlein at the parish office.

**\*\*Epiphany Home Blessing Cards** Last weekend we distributed the House Blessing Cards on the Feast of the Epiphany. Recall that the "20+C+M+B+26" on the cards stands for the present year with the first letter of the 3 magi, Caspar, Melchior and Balthasar, which can also stand for the first letters of the Latin phrase "Christus Mansionem Benedic" which translates to "Christ bless this home/dwelling." There is a prayer that you are encouraged to say on the back as you place them over the main door to your house on the inside. It says- "May all who come to our home rejoice to find Christ living among us; and may we seek and serve Christ in everyone we meet. Amen." Every year I say what a great year we will have if we can allow God to accomplish that prayer in us in our homes as well as our parish family here at Our Lady of Peace. So let us focus on that in 2026.

## **\*\*Epiphany Announcement of Easter and the Moveable Feasts (for the year 2026)**

"Know, dear brothers and sisters, that, as we have rejoiced at the Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ, so by leave of God's mercy we announce to you also the joy of his Resurrection, who is our Savior.

On the eighteenth day of February will fall Ash Wednesday, and the beginning of the fast of the most sacred Lenten season. On the fifth day of April you will celebrate with joy Easter Day, the Paschal feast of our Lord Jesus Christ.

On the seventeenth day of May will be the Ascension of our Lord Jesus Christ.

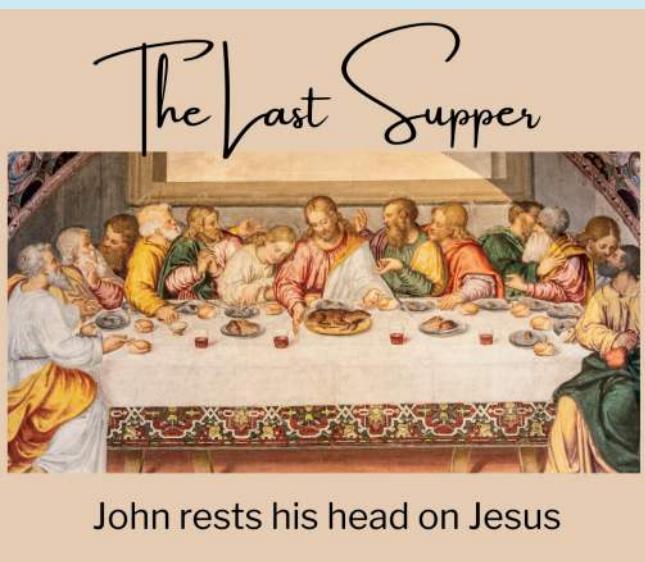
On the twenty-fourth day of May, the feast of Pentecost.

On the seventh day of June the feast of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ.

On the twenty-ninth day of November, the First Sunday of the Advent of our Lord Jesus Christ, to whom is honor and glory for ever and ever. Amen."

**\*\*Thoughts on Purifying the Sacred Vessels during Mass** You may have noticed that at the beginning of Advent we started to purify the sacred vessels at the altar immediately after Holy Communion. This was a recommendation of the Liturgy Committee for several reasons:

1. The universal law as stated in the General Instruction of the Roman Missal (GIRM), no. 279 states, "The sacred vessels are purified by the priest, the deacon, or an instituted acolyte after Communion or after Mass, insofar as possible at the credence table." Since I have been at OLP and I believe for many years before, we had been doing the purification after Mass. Unfortunately after a closer look at what the rubrics call for and the challenge of timing (the clergy desire to be available to greet people after Mass and the priests commit to hearing confessions right after Mass in Advent and Lent as well), after Mass continues to become a more and more challenging time to purify in the way the church asks us. The reason we purify at the altar instead of the credence table is just a practical matter of space and less congestion.
2. Purifying during the Mass allows the congregation to have the sacredness of the Eucharist reinforced for them as they see the care we take with the vessels and any left over body and blood of Christ. Hopefully the attention to such detail reminds us what we believe and not to take this gift for granted.
3. The moment after the distribution of Holy Communion is the most significant opportunity for individual prayer time that there is during the Mass. Purifying at this time can allow for more time for personal, silent prayer with God. I encourage you not to be watching the liturgical action at that time (what I sometimes call the Clergy "doing the dishes" from our spiritual meal) but to close your eyes and to focus on receiving the great embrace from God that the Mass (and in this specific moment, Holy Communion) is. Maybe the image of St. John laying his head on the chest of Jesus at the last supper can help you enter into that moment even more. Whatever it takes- receive this amazing embrace of God's love, and love and thank Him back in your heart, and if you get a few more seconds to that now while we purify the vessels, I cannot see any way that would not be a good thing.



### 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

#### 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

Fellowship and Food at 6:00pm  
Trivia at 7:00pm

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 your team or self by emailing [mohmer99@gmail.com](mailto:mohmer99@gmail.com) or call 814-397-5581

Babysitting Available

# 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.

Stop by our table and get more info on how to volunteer.



Use the QR Code to donate or visit [www.olp.org](http://www.olp.org) and click the donate button!



#### Mathew's story:

Night to Shine has become one of the brightest moments of the entire year for our family. For our son Mathew, it's a chance to step into a tux, head out on the town with his friends, and feel like a king. It's his prom, his night, his stage to shine just as his typical peers have throughout their lives. The excitement starts long before the event with the experience of picking out his tux and then counting down the days to the big night. Once he arrives, he gets to dance, laugh, socialize and truly be the center of attention. He loves every second of it.

For parents and caregivers, Night to Shine offers something just as meaningful: a moment of respite and community. While the guests enjoy their independence with their buddies and aides, we gather with other families, sharing stories, building friendships, and feel the kind of peace that comes from knowing our children are being care for and celebrated. The impact stretches far beyond a single evening. It strengthens friendships, gives families a lift, and reminds us how much joy is possible when everyone is included.

None of this would happen without the incredible volunteers from our community who put on Erie Night to Shine. Their dedication, from set up to every moment of the event, turns a massive undertaking into a magical night. They create space where hundreds of participants feel seen, welcomed, and deeply valued. Their kindness, energy, and patience transform a space into a place where joy takes over. For that, our family and so many others are profoundly grateful. If you feel called to make a difference, Night to Shine is a beautiful place to give your time. One evening of volunteering can create memories that last a lifetime.

Karen S.  
OLP Parishioner

## introduction TO BIOETHICS A CATHOLIC PERSPECTIVE

Led by Sr. Kathleen Dietz, FSO

Tuesdays, January 13, 20, 27  
6:30-8pm in the cafeteria



- January 13 - Introduction to Bioethics and the Dignity of the Human Person
- January 20 - Sexual and Infertility Ethics
- January 27 - Ethics in End of Life Issues

A Catholic Approach to Ethical Questions

## FAITH FORMATION NEWS

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

<b>Jan. 11</b>	Class 9:15-10:45AM
<b>Jan. 18</b>	No Religious Ed. Classes
<b>Jan. 18</b>	Edge Youth Group Night 5:30-7:00PM
<b>Jan. 25</b>	Class 9:15-10:45AM, Grade 4 Parent Day, Church Activity form due for Grades 1-5
<b>Jan. 25</b>	1st Reconciliation Parent meeting:12:15PM in the church

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

<b>Jan. 11</b>	Class 5:30-7PM
<b>Jan. 18</b>	No Confirmation Class
<b>Jan. 18</b>	Confirmation Youth Group Night 6:30-8:30PM
<b>Jan. 25</b>	Class 5:30-7:00PM, Completed Bishop letter due

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)

## Office for the Protection of Children/Youth

**Child Protection and Creating Safe Environments - January is Human Trafficking Prevention Month:** In 2024, the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children received over 27,800 reports of possible child sex trafficking. The average age of child sex trafficking victims is 15 years old. Child sex trafficking is child abuse. It occurs when a minor is advertised, solicited, or exploited through a commercial sex act-where sex is exchanged for money, food, shelter, drugs or anything of value. Traffickers can be family members (even parents), friends, gangs, foster parents, trusted adults or boyfriends. Talk openly with your child about this reality and build resiliency. Address myths that glamorize the commercial sex industry. Warn about online risks: social media and gaming platforms are used by traffickers to target, groom, and recruit victims. Prepare your child: at some point they will likely encounter inappropriate messages or harmful content. Teach them how to respond safely. Report suspected child sex trafficking by calling 1-800-843-5678 or visit [CyberTipline.org](http://CyberTipline.org). For additional resources visit [www.erercd.org/childprotection/](http://www.erercd.org/childprotection/)

## OLP Casserole Club benefiting Maria House Project

"God has given us five gifts for the journey...Word, Water, Bread, Wine and One Another."

~Rev. Herbert O'Driscoll



The residents, volunteers, staff, and board at Maria House Project thank everyone at Our Lady Peace for the giving of your **casseroles** over the years. Most of all we are grateful for the giving of yourselves. You have helped the work of founder Father James Peterson continue to help many men. We wish everyone at Our Lady of Peace a blessed Christmas and Happy New Year.

The January **casseroles**, benefiting Maria House Project, can be brought to the Our Lady of Peace church office on *Saturday, January 17th*, between 3:30 and 4:30pm. If you would like us to pick it up call Skip or Dottie Glover at 814-440-3496 or email [scottiedippy@gmail.com](mailto:scottiedippy@gmail.com). **Casseroles** should be pre-cooked, frozen in a disposable container, with reheating directions attached. Names or addresses are NOT to be included.

### Yard Signs Available:

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



### 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 Revend Lawrence T. Persico, J.C.L., Bishop of Erie

# 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)



## 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

# 48TH ANNUAL PRO-LIFE BREAKFAST

January 17, 2026 ♦ 9 A.M.

Bayfront Convention Center  
Erie, Pennsylvania



## SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER **LYDIA TAYLOR DAVIS**

National Spokesperson  
and Social Media Producer,  
Students for Life of America

### See you at the Breakfast!

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Ages 3-12...\$22 • Under 3...Free  
Reservations due by January 11.

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[Facebook.com/ProLifeBreakfast](http://Facebook.com/ProLifeBreakfast)



Saturday, February 7, 2026  
Bayfront Convention Center



### Honoring:

Nancy Neumaier Bird '84VMA  
The Most Reverend Edward M. Lohse, JCD '80  
The Ehrman Family

For more information, visit  
[www.cathedralprep.com/legacygala](http://www.cathedralprep.com/legacygala) or scan the QR code!



## RISEN & ROOTED REGIONAL CATHOLIC YOUTH MINISTRY

### January & February Schedule

December 31st-Holy Hour for Peace 11pm at OLP, open to all  
Jan 2nd-Youth Group Christmas Party at Sinai Sports-  
RSVP by Dec 29th  
Jan 6th-MS YG at OLP  
Jan 7th-HS YG at OLP  
Jan 8th-4th/5th Gr YG at OLP  
Jan 13th-MS YG at OLP  
Jan 14th-HS YG at SFX  
Jan 17th-11am-1pm Festival of Praise Trip to Steubenville  
Jan 20th-MS YG at OLP  
Jan 21st-HS YG at OLP  
Jan 22nd-Eucharistic Adoration with Praise & Worship 8pm  
Jan 27th-MS YG at OLP  
Jan 28th-HS YG at 12<sup>th</sup> St Chick-Fil-A  
Jan 30th-Feb 1st-Divine Mercy Encounter Retreat, open to  
those in high school and up, 15 years or older  
Feb 3rd-MS YG at OLP  
Feb 4th-HS YG at OLP  
Feb 5th-4th/5th Gr YG at OLP  
Feb 10th-MS YG at OLP  
Feb 11th-HS YG at SFX  
Feb 13th-Kid's Night Out at OLP 5:30-9pm  
Feb 17th-OLP Mardi Gras Party-families welcome  
Feb 24th-MS YG at OLP  
Feb 25th-HS YG at 12<sup>th</sup> St Chick-Fil-A

**Please Note:** Middle School Youth Group (MS YG) is 6:30-8:30pm, no  
optional silent Adoration due to a scheduling conflict. High School  
Youth Group (HS YG) is 6:30-8:30pm, with optional silent  
Adoration/prayer at 8pm.

Dinner is provided at MS and HS. 4th/5th Grade YG is 4-5:30pm, if an  
OLP student, they can come over at 3pm until 4pm.

CONTACT US AT: [Sarah.beaver@olp.org](mailto:Sarah.beaver@olp.org) or  
[youth@stfrancisxaviermckean.org](mailto:youth@stfrancisxaviermckean.org)

## MARCH FOR LIFE WASHINGTON, DC **JANUARY 23, 2026**

**"LIFE IS A GIFT"**

### ANNUAL BUS TRIP

Leave Erie on Thursday evening, January 22, 11 p.m.

March in Washington, DC on Friday, January 23

Return Saturday morning, January 24 about 1:30 a.m.

- ✓ \$70 / seat
- ✓ Sign up while seats are still available!
- ✓ Inquire about sponsorship.
- ✓ [peopleforlife.org/january2026](http://peopleforlife.org/january2026)
- ✓ [facebook.com/MarchforLifeBusTrip](http://facebook.com/MarchforLifeBusTrip)
- ✓ Call or e-mail with questions.
- ✓ Sponsorship donations welcome

### PEOPLE FOR LIFE

1626 W. 26th St., Erie, PA 16508  
(814) 882-1333 • (814) 459-1333  
[hq@peopleforlife.org](mailto:hq@peopleforlife.org)

[www.PeopleforLife.org](http://www.PeopleforLife.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!

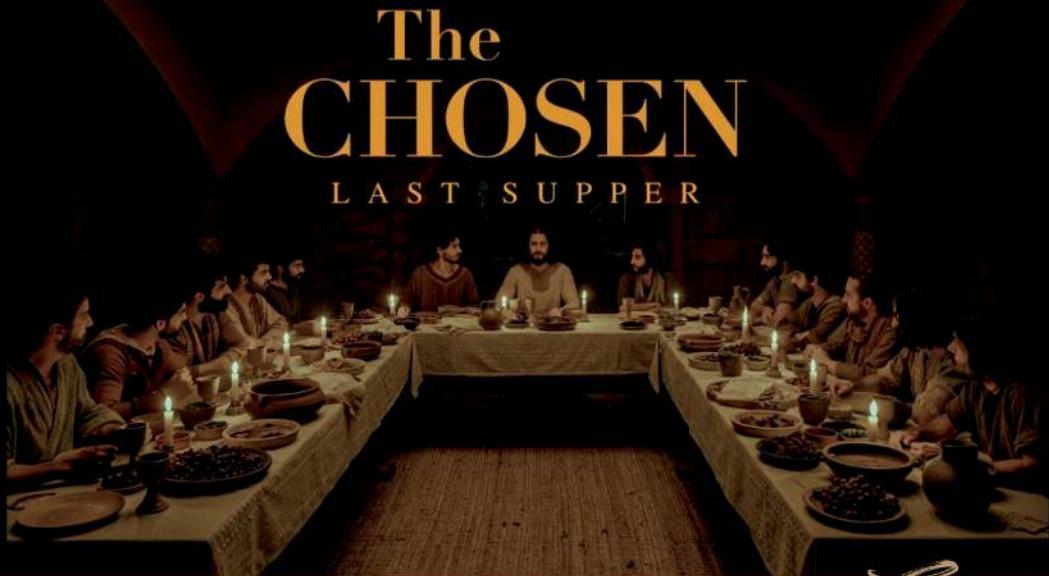
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Season 5

**6:30-8:30pm**

**Tuesdays, February 3 - March 24\*, 2026**

\*March 24<sup>th</sup> will take place in the cafeteria

**Where: Our Lady of Peace Church**

**NO COST: All materials provided**

**Please drop off or mail registration form to:**

**Our Lady of Peace Church, 2401 W. 38th St., Erie, PA 16506**

**Attn: OLP Adult Faith Formation**

*We are loved because He is Love. We are saved because He is merciful.*

Adult Faith Formation presents: The Chosen Season 5 Study

You will be registered upon receipt of your registration form-**due by January 28, 2026**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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For further information,  
please call the parish office.

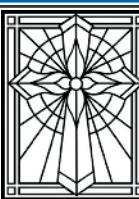


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**Donna R. Kunce**  
-From her loving husband, Ron  
and her loving Family.



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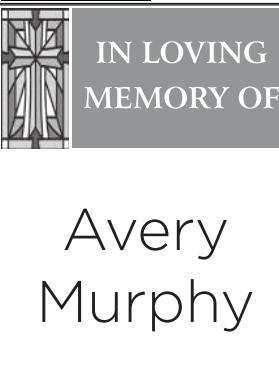
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