

## ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST & HOLY ROSARY

*Rev. John B. Jacquell, Pastor*

September 19, 2021 25th Sunday In Ordinary Time

### St. John the Baptist Church

Located at 509 E. 26<sup>th</sup> Street, Erie PA 16504

### Holy Rosary Church

Located at East 28th & East Avenue, Erie, PA 16504

### Mass Schedule

#### SATURDAY EVENING MASS 4:00 PM

St. John the Baptist (April 10 to September)

Holy Rosary (October to March)

#### SUNDAY MORNING MASS

8:00 AM at St. John the Baptist

10:30 AM at Holy Rosary

#### WEEKDAYS

8:00 AM Mon & Thurs at Holy Rosary

8:00 AM Wed & Fri at St. John the Baptist

**CONFESSIONS:** 2:30-3:30 PM Saturday at St. John or  
by appointment

### PARTNERED PARISH OFFICE

2701 East Avenue, Erie, PA 16504-2917

St. John the Baptist 814-454-2873  
[secretary@sjberie.org](mailto:secretary@sjberie.org)

Holy Rosary 814-456-4254  
[parish.secretary@holyroaryerie.org](mailto:parish.secretary@holyroaryerie.org)

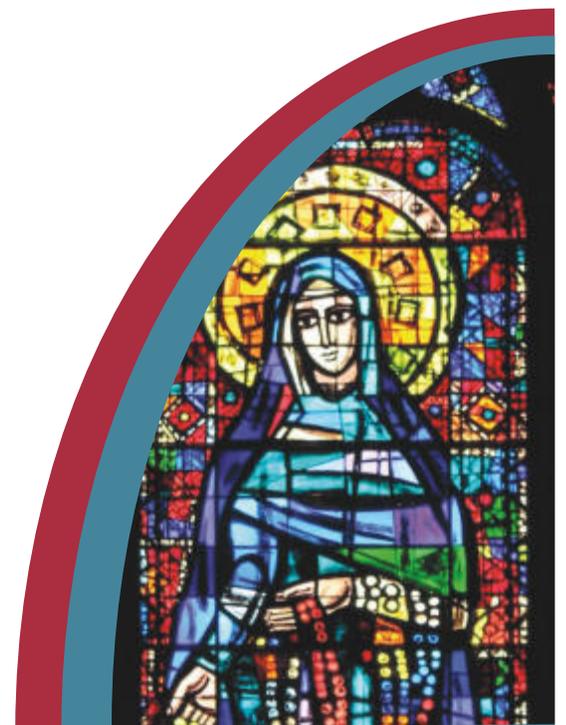
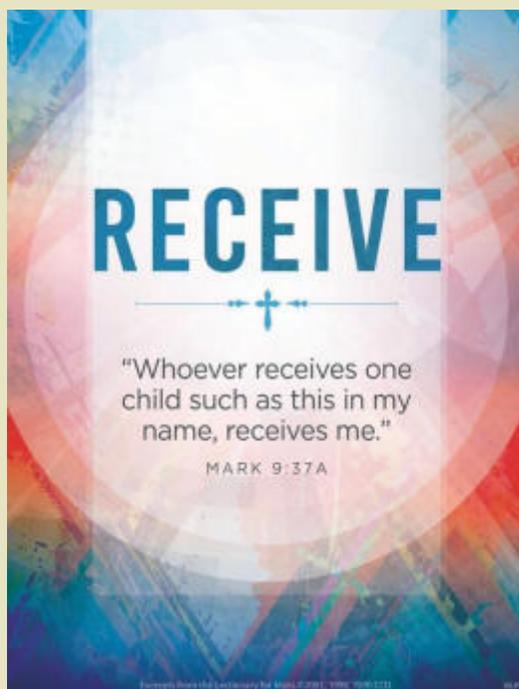
OFFICE HOURS: MONDAY - THURSDAY 8 A.M. - 4:30 P.M.  
Office **CLOSED** Fridays

#### FAITH FORMATION MINISTRY:

St. Luke FF Director: Sister Carmen Maldonado, SSC  
Adult FF Director: Mary Hickin 920-7525

PARTNERED PARISH WEBSITE: [stjohn-holyrosary-erie.org/](http://stjohn-holyrosary-erie.org/)

**ALL ARE WELCOME!**





It takes an awful lot to keep our partnered parishes “up to snuff” – and people whose work and diligence makes this happen ought to be acknowledged. One aspect of pastoring that is NOT up my alley is this kind of building and grounds attention. Thankfully, we have two very good people who are making that happen for us – Deacon Denis Coan and Joe Mattis. They do have some assistance – but they are the directors.

Joe agreed to take this on at Holy Rosary after Wes Kruszewski, who had been doing it for at least 30 years, stepped down. Besides coordinating the many roof repairs after “Snowmageddon” (Christmas 2017), he has kept his eye on further needed church and rectory roof repairs and maintenance – which includes some attention needed on the rain gutters at the rectory. The kitchen and office steps had to be replaced around the rectory. The upgrade of the church sound system is on track to happen (we’ve already made a down payment), as is the church interior paint touch-up, once other projects are complete (including some wall and ceiling repair). Joe ordered new wireless microphones to replace the ones that were stolen and had the locks changed on the church doors. Connecto Electric has been engaged to compete wiring for the sound system as well as the surveillance system that is soon to be installed. They had also worked with Bartlett to complete the set-up of the electronic sign on the corner, as well as the new light fixtures for the offices, and some minor upgrades in the rectory. Joe also helped us procure the live streaming computer, set it up, helped to get the internet connection, and became one of the technicians. He also finalized negotiations with a new groundskeeper as well as picked up a new propane grill for the rectory. Oh, and we need to get a new copy machine for the office, which he also has bid out.

Deacon Denis had already coordinated the installation of the new glass doors at St John’s Church prior to the pandemic, and the whole interior painting job (and wooden floor refinishing) had almost been completed when we had to close the church doors at the COVID-19 shutdown. Then, Denis was the first to look into live stream – using his own equipment and our Facebook page for the first few times. We already had wi-fi in St John’s Church, which was essential to the surveillance system there. Eventually, he found computer, camera, microphone, and a better camera – and worked with sound system personnel – to improve the quality and reliability of this process. He is in constant contact with the Child Development Centers – who lease the school building – as well as Gerry McMurdy who converted school and church (and now rectory) from steam to high efficiency hot water heat – saving us boatloads of money on gas bills. In his “spare time,” Denis also contracted the new electronic sign at St John’s and helped get it synced with the one at Holy Rosary. Oh, there’s also the matter of moving the security cameras from the school to the rectory, which will happen soon. Now, he’s getting the groundwork for air conditioning in the church for next summer, after exploring exterior church restoration needs, which were tabled for the present.

Joe and Denis talk frequently since both serve the partnered parishes. I didn’t even mention the plumbing needs both facilities needed. But thank God they are here – they sure make our lives better and our parishes ever more in good shape. This helps us all to focus more on God.

*Fr. John*

### Who’s On First?

*Wisdom 2:12, 17-20 / James 3:16—4:3 / Mark 9:30-37*

How we define the word “success” matters. Success is associated with the attainment of some goal or purpose. Taken on face value, this definition is not incompatible with what Jesus teaches. Being people of mercy and peace, for example, are certainly worthy goals in our Lord’s eyes. However, we run into trouble when the goals and purpose associated with our understanding of success are self-serving rather than in service of the Kingdom of God. We are so conditioned to put our efforts into obtaining privilege and status that we forget about matters of the soul and the heart. These often get pushed aside in our pursuit of more tangible, measurable, secular gains.

What about the essence of our being: our soul? Our world does a great job convincing us of the illusion that being first is best. Life becomes “something we do,” a series of predestined roles we play on the road to success. Our stages are set with all of the pieces we think we need to get us where we think we need to go. We dance from one to the next, barely taking time to breathe, as we touch each component making certain everything is where it needs to be. Yet in doing so, we tire of playing the puppeteer of our life’s characters and pieces, leaving our souls parched, lifeless and arid.

It is no wonder that St. Oscar Romero wisely said to, “Aspire not to have more, but to be more.” It is better to have our life stage set with less so that we can be more fully present, rather than set with multiple things in competition for our time. Quality, not quantity, matters most in the Kingdom of God. Jesus wants nothing to do with our secularly success driven lives. He sees no more value in those pursuits than he did with the money changers in the temple. In being consumed with our own personal advancement over a true investment of ourselves in life, we become no better than those money changers. The illusions are the same: me before you, the top is better than the bottom, us versus them, personal security and safety over universal harmony and peace, making more and more money versus time-honored principles and virtues such as honesty, kindness, and love.

There is wisdom to God’s wonderful commandment to “keep holy the Sabbath day.” We need a day of intentional worship and playful rest. When we can connect with the truth of God in Word and Eucharist, it makes all the difference in the world.

We cannot be useful instruments to God unless we begin to perfect the “ministry of being.” And we cannot begin to do that until we rid ourselves of the world’s illusions and invest ourselves in the Kingdom of God. When we make that challenging choice, the tables begin to turn. We may find ourselves moving to a lesser place in the world’s eyes but to a more prominent place in God’s eyes. Sadly, however, many find all of this too challenging.

St. Oscar Romero continues with words of wisdom when he says, “Beautiful is the moment in which we understand that we are no more than an instrument of God; we live only as long as God wants us to live; we can only do as much as God makes us able to do; we are only as intelligent as God would have us be.” Now there is a recipe for success! Imagine what the world would look like if we all really believed this and taught this as a firm and necessary lesson to our children! We could actually stop worrying about being first and experience the joy of life. And when we experience joy, we experience God; who is life for our souls.

*Fr. Mark Suslenko  
(Lpi contributor)*



## MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

**Monday, September 20, 2021**

8:00 am HR Gordon & Eileen Gaither (Daughter - Cindy)

**Wednesday, September 22, 2021**

8:00 am SJB Communion Service

**Thursday, September 23, 2021**

8:00 am HR Communion Service

**Friday, September 24, 2021**

8:00 am SJB Communion Service

**Saturday, September 25, 2021**

4:00 pm SJB Joseph Gausman (Family)

**Sunday, September 26, 2021**

8:00 am SJB For all Living & Deceased Parishioners

10:30 am HR Carmen Pontoriero (Jasinski Family)

**The Sanctuary Candle** is lit this week in memory of Tim Kujan (Mom & Debbie).

**The Bread and Wine** are donated today in memory of Tim Kujan (Mom & Debbie).

### Readings Next Weekend

**26th Sunday In Ordinary Time**

1st Reading: Nm 11:25-29

2nd Reading: Jas 5:1-6

Gospel: Mark 9:38-43, 45, 47-48



### A Family Perspective

*Disagreements are common in families. But what would you say if Jesus posed the same question "What are you arguing about?" Is it silly and petty? Is it an attempt to impose your will and control on another, or to really solve a problem? Today Jesus tells us and his disciples to give it up. We are meant to serve each other, not control.*

### Livestream Mass Schedule

Go to YouTube and search for *St. John the Baptist Holy Rosary Erie PA*. Livestreaming is available at St. John for 8:00 a.m. Mass Wednesday & Friday, Saturday at 4:00 p.m. and Sunday at 8:00 a.m. through September.

### Lector Schedule

Sep 25	4:00 p.m.	Bonnie Prokocki
Sep 26	8:00 a.m.	Joanne Deiner
Sep 26	10:30 a.m.	Alice Kendziora & Kay Kitch

### Holy Hour

Holy Hour is every month on Thursday before the first Friday at 6:30 p.m. at St. John the Baptist Church. **The next Holy Hour is on Thursday, September 30 at 6:30 p.m. at St. John the Baptist.** The next day for Holy Hour is November 4.

### In Remembrance

*Our prayers and sympathy to the family and friends of Paul Scarpino and Wanda (Bieliski) Pius.*

*May they rest in peace.*

### Faith Formation at St. Luke

At St. Luke/Director: Sr. Carmen Maldonado 825-6920 Ext 237

**ADULT FAITH FORMATION** /Director: Mary Hickin 920-7525

(Masks/social distancing required)

**September 19—10:30 a.m.**

- FF Orientation meeting in the church
- Commissioning of FF Catechist-Teachers 2021-2022
- All parents & students: FF K-10 Blessing
- Distribution of 2021-2022 student folders—Unit 1

### Fall Adult Faith Formation

There are two opportunities. The first is a discussion group for *The Chosen* video series, season two, that will be held on Tuesdays through November 16. The second opportunity will be on Wednesdays, beginning September 29, that features a Bible study on Ephesians, using the Ascension Press Great Adventure videos. This study also lasts eight weeks, ending on November 17. Both groups will meet in the SJB Pastors' Hall at 6:30 p.m. on their respective days. Complete a registration form located at the church entrances. Questions? Call Mary Hickin at 814-920-7525.

### Catholic Education Collection

Today is the 2021 Catholic Education Collection! Please support this important program that funds faith formation opportunities. Half of what you give will remain here at St. John/Holy Rosary to support our own religious education and faith formation programs. Thank you!

### Soul Walks

**Soul Walks are scheduled for Sunday, October 3 at 12 noon and Wednesday, October 6 at 6 p.m.** We walk from Holy Rosary to St. John, praying and picking up trash along the way. All are welcome.

### Healing Mass

The Son of God Prayer Group invites you to a Healing Mass with Rev. Jonathan Schmolt on **Tuesday, October 5 at 6:30 p.m. at Holy Rosary.** Music by Jaci Phillips Sabol begins at 6:15 p.m. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. All are welcome!

### Harrisburg March for Life Event

The Pennsylvania March for Life is on September 27, 2021. The bus leaves at 3 a.m. on Sept. 27 and will arrive for 9 a.m. Mass at St. Patrick's Cathedral in Harrisburg. The bus departs at 3 p.m. Contact Lewis Nordin at 814-790-9341 or Mike Case at 814-504-0251.

### Holy Rosary no longer recycling newspapers

As of November 1, Holy Rosary will no longer accept newspapers for recycling.

### Pastoral Council Nominations

Council members are people called by the parish community to lead, serve and discern the needs of the parish. Each is dedicated to the needs of individuals, the welfare of the entire parish and the universal Church.

**Nominations: Pastoral Council nominations will be open through September 19 for three seats on council,** 2 from Holy Rosary and 1 from St. John's. Qualifying individuals, who may nominate, or be nominated, must be registered with the parish, have received the Sacrament of Confirmation and be at least 16 years of age. Individuals may nominate themselves.

Nominee biography and photos can be submitted Sep. 20-26. The Pastoral Council elections will be held Oct. 9 – 17.

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