

Our Lady of Mount Carmel

Catholic Church

*1531 East Grandview Blvd.
Erie, Pennsylvania 16510*

May 21, 2023

Mass Schedule

Saturday Vigil 4:15 p.m.
Sunday 8:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.
Confessions Saturday 3:30 p.m. and
upon request.

Ministry to the Sick

Please notify the parish office if a
member of your family is in the
hospital or confined to home.

Prayer line request

Dave Piotrowicz 9:00 a.m. and 6:00
p.m. (814) 825-4852

Parish office hours

Monday 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Tuesday 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. .
Wednesday 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Thursday 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Friday CLOSED

Contact us

Phone (814)825-7313 ext. 1
sberdis@olmc-erie.org
www.olmc-erie.org

Baptism

Usually following 11:00 a.m. Mass.
Please contact parish office at least
one month in advance.

Marriage

Arrangements must be made with
the parish office at least six months
in advance.



7TH SUNDAY OF EASTER



Jesus raised his eyes to heaven and said, "Father, the hour
has come. Give glory to your son, so that your son may
glorify you." - Jn 17:1

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

GLPI

Parish Staff

Parochial Administrator — Very Rev. Nicholas J. Rouch, S.T.D., E.V.
Weekend Assistant — Rev. Casimir Wozniak, Ph.D.
In Residence — Rev. Ian McElrath
Deacon — Rev. Dr. Frank Pregler
Faith Life Administrator — Rebecca Wiest
Parish Office Administrator — Susan Berdis

PRAYER AND WORSHIP

MASS INTENTIONS

Sanctuary Lamp burns this week in memory of
† Deceased members Brozewic/Noftz Family
Requested by Bill Macrino

Saturday May 20th
4:15 pm **† Ted and Ida Allegretto**
Requested by Ted Allegretto Family

Sunday May 21st
8:00 am **Living and Deceased Parishioners**

11:00 am **† Bud and Henriette Rinderle**
Requested by Family

Monday May 22nd
7:00 am **† Mary Lichtenwalter**
Requested by Sally and Betsy Mahoney

Tuesday May 23rd
7:00 am **† Helen and John Vickers**
Requested by Family

Wednesday May 24th
7:00 am **† Carol Renner**
Requested by Annemarie and Brian Tenney

Thursday May 25th
7:00 am **† Brian Manley**
Requested by Michelle, Christopher, Christian

Friday May 26th
7:00 am **† Bob Kapsar**
Requested by Helen Piotrowicz

Saturday May 27th
4:15 pm **† Diane Allegretto**
Requested by Allegretto Family

Sunday May 28th
8:00 am **Living and Deceased Parishioners**

11:00 am **† Robert Fox Sr.**
Requested by James and Sandra Hirz

PRAYER REQUESTS

Please call the parish office if you know of someone in need of our prayers.

Patricia Smolinsky	Marlene Kuzma
Tom Wojcicehowski	Dennis Stazer
Ann Marie McKean	Karen Leo
Thomas Smyczek	Rita Trabert
Mary Ann Brennen	Joe G.
Sandy Smith	Toni Jakubowski
Karen Hughes	Lorrie Holtz
Carolyn St. George	Kathy Ishman
Jim Kitts	Barb Charles
Linda Lafferty	Andy Estok
Dorothy Vash	Doug Trabert
James Wienczkowski	Jerry Trott
Rose Mary Kowalczyk	

Let us pray for the faithful departed:

Pat Wingrove	Mary Jane Bohrer
Jim Sexauer	Pat Dunn
Jack Jordon	Thomas Kornacki
Don Roth	Florence Sova

Readings for the week

Sunday: Acts 1:12-14/Ps 27:1, 4, 7-8 (13)/1 Pt 4:13-16/Jn 17:1-11a

Monday: Acts 19:1-8/Ps 68:2-3ab, 4-5acd, 6-7ab/Jn 16:29-33

Tuesday: Acts 20:17-27/Ps 68:10-11, 20-21/Jn 17:1-11a

Wednesday: Acts 20:28-38/Ps 68:29-30, 33-35a, 35bc-36ab/Jn 17:11b-19

Thursday: Acts 22:30; 23:6-11/Ps 16:1-2a and 5, 7-8, 9-10, 11/Jn 17:20-26

Friday: Acts 25:13b-21/Ps 103:1-2, 11-12, 19-20ab/Jn 21:15-19

Saturday: Acts 28:16-20, 30-31/Ps 11:4, 5 and 7/Jn 21:20-25

Sunday: Gn 11:1-9 or Ex 19:3-8a, 16-20b or Ez 37:1-14 or Jl 3:1-5/Ps 104:1-2, 24, 35, 27-28, 29, 30 (see 30)/Rom 8:22-27/Jn 7:37-39

ROSARY

Join us every **Sunday morning at 7:30** a.m. in the church for reciting the Rosary offered for requests on the prayer chain, written in the intention book located in the vestibule.

AROUND THE PARISH

THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

Mon., 5/22	3:00 p.m. Food Pantry 6:00 p.m. Stitching Ministry
Tues., 5/23	9:30 a.m. Food Pantry
Weds., 5/24	8:30 a.m. Church cleaning 8:00 p.m. Adult Basketball
Thurs., 5/25	6:00 p.m. Folk Group 6:30 p.m. Choir
Sat., 5/27	3:30 p.m. Confessions
Sun., 5/28	7:30 a.m. Rosary

DEACON FRANK PREGLER 25 YEARS

All parishioners are invited to a celebration in honor of Deacon Frank and Jane Pregler, who will mark the 25th anniversary of Frank's ordination as Deacon on May 29th.

Join us on **Saturday, June 3rd**, beginning with Mass at 4:15 p.m., followed by a reception in Scheffner Hall. May the Holy Spirit continue to work in and through you to help you continue to proclaim the Gospel and care for the People of God in your midst.

We look forward to celebrating all the years of service and leadership they have provided to our parish.

DONATIONS NEEDED

This summer, OLMC will be partnering with other eastside parishes for Vacation Bible Camp at St. Mark the Evangelist Church! The theme will be Stellar: Shine Jesus' Light. All children 4 years old through 5th grade are welcome!

Please look in the back of the church for a donation station, take a star, and return the needed item to the basket by May 28th. Know we appreciate your donation!

BEEF-O-RAMA

Tickets for the 57th Annual Men's Council BEEF-O-RAMA are on sale now and can be purchased by contacting Dave at 814-825-2722 or 814-873-2778. You can also purchase tickets in the parish office. **NO tickets sold at the door!**

Thursday, June 29th, 2023

BEVERAGES 5 P.M.

HORS D'OEUVRES 6 P.M.

PRIME RIB DINNER 7 P.M.

\$65.00 Per Person

Limited Reservations

Please note: You **must be 21 years** of age or older to attend this event.

STEWARDSHIP

Needed each week **\$9000.00.**

Weekly Donation May 14th \$3323.04

CSA \$66,050.04

Thank you for your financial support. Your continued support enables us to operate and maintain both the Church and Education building. **We are grateful!!**

BABY BOTTLE UPDATE

The 2023 Baby bottle Fundraiser is underway! All donations collected will be used to fund the purchase of a new Ultrasound Machine to replace an outdated one at one of the other Women's Care Center's locations. Funds will also be used toward the operating costs of the Ultrasound Van purchased in 2022 from your generous donations.

Returned bottles can be placed in a marked tub under the table in the Sacristy or dropped off in Parish Office. Envelopes can be put in the collection basket, or mailed to Parish Office. Please return all donations the weekend of June 10-11. Call Greg (814) 392-3297 if you have any questions. Thank you for your support of the unborn!

AROUND THE PARISH AND COMMUNITY

PENTECOST SUNDAY

Next weekend we celebrate the feast of Pentecost and the coming of the Holy Spirit among the believers of the early Church. Saint Paul reminds us of the special power the Holy Spirit has bestowed upon us and how that power gives us the potential to live extraordinary lives of faith.

Good stewards recognize this power and use their gifts, through God's channel of grace, to transform their lives and the lives of others, and thus hasten God's Kingdom. Good stewards know that it is through the Holy Spirit that they can proclaim: "Jesus is Lord." Do we believe that Jesus is Our Lord? If so, how do we show it?

Excerpt taken from the International Catholic Stewardship Council newsletter.

ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

Diocesan anniversary celebrations for couples celebrating 25, 40, 50, 60 or more years of marriage in 2023 will be held at two locations in the Diocese of Erie.

Aug. 6 at Our Lady of Peace, 2401 W. 38th St., Erie at 2 p.m.

Aug. 20 at Sts. Cosmas and Damian, 616 W. Mahoning St., Punxsutawney at 2 p.m.

Couples may register by completing a registration form at <http://www.eriecd.org/familylifeoffice/anniv.html>, or by calling the parish office.

Registrations are being accepted until July 21 for the Erie celebration and until Aug. 4 for the Punxsutawney celebration.

For your convenience registration forms can be found in the front entrance of the Church.

THE ESSENCE OF SPRING

Transcendence invites you to a spring concert featuring new compositions by Richard Robert Rossi, alongside sacred and secular works by renowned composers such as Monteverdi, Bruckner, Stanford, Memley and Moses Hogan.

The event will be held at **St. Peter Cathedral**, 230 W 10th St., Erie **on June 10 at 7 p.m.**, with Rossi as the conductor. Admission is free. See flier on our bulletin board for details.

For more information visit <https://stpetercathedral.com/transcendence>.

LUNCHEON AND GIFT AUCTION

All Saints Parish in Waterford is sponsoring a luncheon and gift auction on **May 21 from 1-4 p.m.** at 11264 Rt. 97 N., Waterford.

Admission is \$10. **Doors open at 12:30 p.m.** Proceeds go to the parish's various ministries.

CAR RAFFLE

St. Jude the Apostle Parish is offering a chance to win a 2023 Z51 2LT Corvette Stingray or \$50,000 in their latest fundraiser. The fundraiser, offering over \$100,000 in total prizes, also includes a second-place reward of a Disney World family vacation or \$10,000.

The **grand prize drawing** will occur on Christmas Eve, but not before the parish awards cash prizes for 12 consecutive days leading up to the event.

Interested parties can **purchase tickets for \$50 each** at www.winavette.com. All proceeds from the event will directly benefit Catholic education and various ministries within the parish community. See flier on our bulletin board for details.

THOUGHTS ON THE WAY UP MOUNT CARMEL

Dear Friends:

This past Monday, we held a general parish meeting to present information on several important matters. My estimate is that over 100 parishioners attended and I am happy to say that everyone was respectful and attentive. I've said this before, but I'm impressed by the faithfulness of parishioners here. Here's a brief summary of the presentations:

- **Diocesan pastoral planning:** The diocese has initiated a process to review the parishes in Erie County to determine what adjustments are needed to align us with the current number of active parishioners and active priests. I provided an overview of the process as well as some diocesan statistics which indicate that changes are needed.

- **Our parish:** Deacon Frank provided an overview of our own parish's strengths and concerns, including some statistics regarding sacramental participation here at Our Lady of Mount Carmel. One of the more concerning statistics is Mass attendance. On an average weekend in 1990, approximately 1750 people would attend Masses at OLMC. In the past year, we have averaged 275 people at our three Sunday Masses. In the 1990's, there would be, on average, 78 Baptisms each year. In 2022, we had only two Baptisms. Clearly, similar significant decreases are found throughout the diocese and the Northeast US. Consequently, each diocese and parish needs to adjust to the new realities.

OLMC Parish Financial Status: Jon Bickerstaff, moderator of the parish's Finance Council, presented the financial status of the parish, including the long-term debt owed to the diocese (which accumulated over the past 20 years), as well as the need to address the annual operating budget.

We began and ended the meeting with prayer, and I encourage all of us to continue praying for the Holy Spirit's guidance as we consider our present and future.

The presentations were intended to help parishioners better understand **two possible changes**:

Our Lady of Mount Carmel is one of 34 parishes in Erie County. It is currently a "stand alone" parish, but we *may* need to "partner" with another parish, or "merge" into another parish in order to remain a vibrant faith community. Fuller definitions of partner, merge and vibrant parishes can be found at www.eriercd.org/planning. Bishop Persico indicated that a *preliminary* plan for all parishes in Erie County will likely be presented in late summer or early fall. Once this preliminary plan is presented, we will be invited to prayerfully consider how it impacts OLMC and offer feedback before any final decisions are made.

The parish's long-term debt is approximately \$798,000.00. This accumulated over 20 years when the parish was not able to pay all of its normal assessments to the diocese. One possible way to address this debt is to put the school building up for sale or lease. No decisions have been made, but the Finance Council has entered into discussions with a local real estate consultant to see what interest is out there. We will also need to work on balancing the annual operation budget so that we don't continue adding to the debt.

It's important to know that decisions being made for parishes in our diocese depend on much more than our own statistics and finances. Within the next couple of weeks, Bishop Persico will publish a pastoral letter to help us all understand the realities, the challenges and the possibilities across our 10,000-square-mile diocese. I encourage you to read it so you will have a better understanding of the big picture.

I believe that there is a future for Our Lady of Mount Carmel, but it will require us to make changes. The Finance Council is actively engaged in addressing the financial challenges. Something which Bishop Persico said recently about the diocese in general applies to OLMC: "We just don't have the parishioners or the priests to continue doing what we used to do." We will continue to share information with you as it becomes available. In the meantime, please keep coming to Mass at OLMC, continue to support the parish with your contributions, your volunteer help, and your prayers.

Our Lady of Mount Carmel – Pray for us!

Fr. Nick Rouch

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