

# Saint Luke

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH



421 EAST 38TH STREET · ERIE, PENNSYLVANIA 16504

*Catholic Caring Neighbors  
for over 60 years*

*St. Luke Parish is a Catholic Community  
of believers who strives to be welcoming,  
evangelistic, and of service so that  
all may experience the love of Jesus Christ.*

### DIRECTORY

Church Office ..... 825-6920  
 Church Fax ..... 825-6905  
 Church Email ..... [stluke@slserie.org](mailto:stluke@slserie.org)  
 Faith Formation ..... [faithformation@slserie.org](mailto:faithformation@slserie.org)  
 Church Website ..... [www.stlukeerie.org](http://www.stlukeerie.org)  
 Facebook ..... [www.facebook.com/lukealive](http://www.facebook.com/lukealive)  
 Prayer Chain ..... 866-1487  
 School Office ..... 825-7105  
 School Fax ..... 825-7169  
 School Website ..... [www.slserie.org](http://www.slserie.org)  
 K of C Website ..... [www.koc11229.org](http://www.koc11229.org)

### PARISH STAFF

*Pastor* ..... Rev. John P. Malthaner  
*Senior Associate* ..... Rev. John J. Murphy  
*Deacons* ..... Rev. Dr. Richard Shewman  
 ..... Rev. Mr. Glenn Kuzman  
*Faith Formation Director* ..... Sr. Carmen Maldonado, SSC  
*School Principal* ..... Audrey Coletta  
*Advancement Director* ..... JoAnn Scheppner  
*Music Ministers* ..... Maggi Minick and Ted Fuhrman  
*Office Staff* ..... Deidre Brown and Louanna Donajkowski  
*Maintenance Director* ..... Bruce Honard

### CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

8:30 am-12:00 pm - 1:00 pm-5:00 pm  
Closed Saturday, Sunday & Holidays

### MASS SCHEDULE

Weekdays ..... \*8:00 am M-F  
 ..... 5:15 pm M-Th  
 Saturday Vigil ..... 4:30 pm  
 Sunday ..... 9:00 & 11:30 am. & 6:00 pm

*\*Except for school Masses usually on Wednesdays and  
Fridays at 8:30 am.*

### HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION MASS SCHEDULE

The night before ..... 5:15 pm  
 The day of ..... \*8:30 am & 7:00 pm  
 ..... \*8:00 am if no school

### CONFESSIONS

Saturdays ..... 2:45 pm - 3:45 pm

### FIRST FRIDAY ADORATION

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament begins after morning Mass to 4:30 pm every first Friday. To sign-up, please contact Judy Krasnesky at 454-1634.

**BAPTISM:** By appointment. Parents anticipating the birth or baptism of their child are expected to attend a Baptismal class. Please visit our website at [www.stlukeerie.org](http://www.stlukeerie.org) for a complete listing of dates, times and parish locations for the classes. Reservations are required.

**MARRIAGE:** Please contact one of the parish priests six months prior to the proposed date of your wedding. Visit our website at [www.slserie.org](http://www.slserie.org).

**SPONSOR CERTIFICATE:** To act as sponsor for the Sacrament of Baptism and/or Confirmation requires a Sponsor Certificate that can be given only to registered members of the parish who are baptized, confirmed, attend Mass, are at least 16 years of age, and receive the sacraments regularly. If the requesting person is married, the marriage must have taken place in conformity with the laws of the Church.

**CARE OF THE SICK:** Those confined to their homes by sickness or age may arrange to receive Holy Communion on a weekly or monthly basis by calling the parish office at 825-6920. Our priests and deacons visit all St. Luke parishioners once a week at Hamot and St. Vincent, and other hospitals as requested.

**WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE** entrances are located on the east and west sides of the church. Pews are available in the front aisle, middle section. An automatic door and restrooms are located on the east side.

**BULLETIN ARTICLE DEADLINE: 10:00 am Monday in writing**

### PASTOR'S DESK

As we continue to feel the effects of COVID-19, we are reminded that pandemics have ravaged societies throughout history. In the Middle Ages, the plague known as the Black Plague/Death swept through Europe and within a few years, resulted in the deaths of over 50 million people, or about 60% of the population.

Between 1346-1349, it seemed as if no one was immune as the disease wreaked havoc in cities, towns, and villages. The epidemic appeared to be incurable. Lacking the advancement of medicine at the time, people clung to their faith for help and guidance. The pious turned to heaven, begging the intervention of the saints to spare them or cure them. It was at this time that the Church called on what became known in Germany as "Nothelfer," which means "helpers in need," or the Fourteen Holy Helpers. The Fourteen "Auxiliary Saints," or Holy Helpers are saints who were invoked as a group mainly because they had been deemed as helpful in assisting in trials and sufferings. They were, what many believed to be, the means of hope amid the Black Plague.

Devotion to the Fourteen Holy Helpers spread throughout Europe as Church leaders believed "these men and women were adorned with special privileges above others, so that all who in their necessities implore their help, according to the grace of Thy promise, may attain the salutary effect of their pleading, grant to us, we beseech Thee, forgiveness of our sins, and with their merits interceding, deliver us from all adversities, and kindly hear our prayers." The Fourteen Holy Helpers include George, Blase, Erasmus, Pantaleon, Vitus, Christopher, Denis, Cyriacus, Acacius, Eustace, Giles, Margaret of Antioch, Barbara and Catherine of Alexandria.

The Fourteen Holy Helpers were in some places celebrated as a group on August 8, but this celebration never became part of the General Roman Calendar for universal celebration. When the calendar was revised in 1969, the individual celebrations of some of the Fourteen Holy Helpers were dropped, including Barbara, Christopher, Margaret of Antioch, and Catherine of Alexandria (although Catherine's Feast was restored by Pope John Paul II in 2004).

Why the history lesson? First, I believe it's always good to learn about Church history when applicable...which leads to the second reason, the inclusion of St. Blasé as one of the Fourteen Holy Helpers.

There isn't a lot written about St. Blasé, aside from the fact he was a fourth-century Bishop in the area known as Western Armenia (Armenia is a nation and former Soviet Republic, located in the mountainous Caucasus region between Asia and Europe) and died as a martyr. Much of what we know about Blasé comes from legends. For

example, he is the patron saint of Dubrovnik, Croatia as legend tells the tale of Blasé appearing in a vision to a local man warning that a warring force was about to invade the town. The townspeople responded with defensive measures and the warring force, having lost the element of surprise, departed.



Blasé lived in the fourth century, which was a pivotal year for Christianity. Emperor Constantine, leader of the Western Roman Empire, sought to make Christianity acceptable and end religious persecution. Emperor Licinius, leader of the Eastern Roman Empire, agreed to sign the Edict of Milan (the document that would "officially" end religious persecution), but did so only in name and for political purposes. Licinius continued to treat Christians harshly and in 316 A.D., Blasé would become the target of his hostility.

Blasé escaped Licinius' wrath by hiding in a cave outside the city walls. Eventually he was arrested and thrown into prison for his beliefs. Legend has it that two miracles were attributed to Blasé during this time, one of them for which he is most known for, curing a boy who was choking from a fish bone lodged in his throat. Blasé prayed over the boy, and he was healed.

Blasé would be condemned to die and in 316 A.D. was beheaded as he refused to deny Christ in his life.

The miraculous cure of the boy choking from the fish bone created the belief that St. Blasé could cure most illnesses...especially those of the throat. St. Blasé was invoked by the Church for throat ailments as early as the ninth century, and by the fifteenth century the ritual of the blessing of throats had begun.

God-inspired devotional acts have been a part of the Catholic-Christian Church since its inception. They are an essential part of our faith. They have been handed down and in many ways are looked forward to celebrating by the faithful. They are audio, visual and physical. In the case of the devotion to St. Blasé, people like to hear the words "*Through the intercession of Blasé, bishop and martyr, may you be freed from all diseases of the throat and every other illness,*" see the candles and even feel them around their neck.

This year, due to COVID – 19, we will bless throats, but at a distance. Hopefully next year we will be back to the traditional blessing as we celebrate St. Blasé.

Peace,  
Fr. John

**ST. LUKE FINANCIAL INFORMATION****Sunday Collections as of January 24, 2021**

Monthly Electronic Contributions .....	\$4,675.00
Sunday 01/03/2021 .....	\$4,757.07
Sunday 01/10/2021 .....	\$9,901.00
Sunday 01/17/2021 .....	\$5,265.74
Sunday 01/24/2021 .....	\$8,281.84
Sunday 01/31/2021 .....	\$7,052.74
<b>Total Monthly Collection to Date.....</b>	<b>\$39,933.39</b>

*Thank you to those who contribute to St. Luke Church and the special collections, including the Food Pantry, School, Flowers and the Diocesan special collections that help our neighbors both near and far.*



**BLESSING OF THE THROATS**, for the Feast of St. Blasé, will take place **this weekend, February 6 & 7**, at all the Masses. There will be a general blessing to stay within the CDC guidelines of social distancing.

**COVID-19 VACCINES** - As various vaccines for COVID-19 are made available to the public, concerns about safety and efficacy — as well as the ethics of their research and development — challenge all to make informed choices. Bishop Lawrence Persico has issued a statement that provides information about the vaccines and a process of ethical decision-making consistent with Catholic values. The statement, which can be found at [www.eriecd.org/news/News-releases.html](http://www.eriecd.org/news/News-releases.html), also includes links to several helpful Vatican and USCCB documents.

**WEEKDAY MASSES**, at 8:00 am or 8:30 am and 5:15 pm, are available throughout the months of February, March and April. If you would like to schedule a Mass, please call or stop by the parish office. The stipend is \$10.

**SCAMS** - In this age when personal data can be misused by scam artists, please be aware that the Roman Catholic Diocese of Erie, its clergy, and entities such as parishes and schools will never solicit your personal or business information by any method unless initiated by you. Should you receive an unsolicited request for such information – including a request for gift cards of any type – exercise extreme caution. Contact the person or entity by using official contact information only. Do not use contact information provided in the potential fraudulent request.

**DISPENSATION** from the obligation to attend Sunday and holy day Masses remains in place. Do not feel as if you must come to Mass if you are not ready to attend public worship. If you stay home, **please continue to join us as we celebrate with Fr. John Sunday Mass each week on our parish website, [www.stlukeerie.org](http://www.stlukeerie.org); our parish Facebook at [www.facebook.com/lukealive](http://www.facebook.com/lukealive) and our parish app. The Mass will be live-streamed on Facebook at 4:30 pm every Saturday and will be available throughout the week for your convenience.**

**FORMED** provides the very best Catholic content from more than 60 organizations to help parishes, families and individuals explore their faith



anywhere. Supporting thousands of movies, children's programs, ebooks, audio, parish programs and studies direct to your browser, mobile or connected device. To sign up, visit [FORMED.org](http://FORMED.org), click sign-up and select "I belong to a Parish or Organization." Find St. Luke Church by parish name, address or zip code. Enter your email address and you're in! Enjoy!!

**CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR 2020** are available to you when you join Realm, the new church program implemented by the Diocese of Erie, and click on your Giving tab. You may also obtain one by calling the parish office at 814-825-6920. Statements are only emailed or mailed to those who request one.

**EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS & LECTORS** - The schedule for March through the end of May will begin soon. If you would like to be included, please let Brenda Pasko know by **Sunday, February 14**. Her contact information is [screener2@charter.net](mailto:screener2@charter.net) or 814-882-7850.



**REALM** - St Luke Church is moving to a new church record keeping solution called Realm. If the church has an email address on file for you then you should have received your invitation to join Realm. Please click the link that is provided in that email and follow all the steps to set up your own personal account. There are videos to help you on the church website and the church app. If your invitation has expired, please call the church office 814-825-6920 to have a new invitation sent.



**WELCOME** new parishioners, **Curtis & Katelynn Bailey and their family**, to the St. Luke Parish community.

## February Youth Group Schedule

St. Luke Youth Group is open to all students in grades 5 through 8. We are very excited to welcome you back and have put in place some guidelines to ensure everyone's safety. Everyone attending must wear a mask in order to assure the health and wellbeing of others. Youth Group will look a little different as we will be rearranging the space in order to maintain social distancing. Additionally, all surfaces will be cleaned before and after youth group as a precaution. Finally, a hand sanitizer station will be set up for everyone to utilize. Please feel free to reach out to Abbie Harrington with any questions or concerns at [ah12@outlook.com](mailto:ah12@outlook.com).

February 7<sup>th</sup> from 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm will be a special game night where students will take part in a Mystery "Who Done It" Game. We are bringing back the Mystery "Who Done It" Game based on popular demand! The youth group will participate in a brand new in-depth game of "who done it" with each student receiving a character. Students will need to work together to find clues, solve riddles, and crack the case. It is sure to be a fun evening filled with many surprises!



**CHILD PROTECTION & CREATING SAFE ENVIRONMENTS** - February is Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month. Over one quarter of youth (12-17) who have been in a romantic relationship during the previous year say they'd been the victim of **digital dating abuse** according to *Psychology Today*. Digital dating abuse is physical, sexual or psychological/emotional violence that occurs between romantic partners through the use of texting, social media and related online mediums. 81% of youth who had been the target of digital dating abuse had also been the target of off-line dating abuse. So what are some of the best ways for a parent to open up communication with their kids about a delicate topic like online dating? First and foremost, ask kids what they are doing online and then really *listen* to why they like or don't like what's going on there. Parents must be diligent about staying on top of the latest trends. Great parenting and online dating tips can be found in at [www.cyberwise.org](http://www.cyberwise.org). To see what the diocese is doing to help maintain safe environments for children and youth visit [www.eriecd.org/childprotection/](http://www.eriecd.org/childprotection/).

## CONSIDER JOINING PASTORAL COUNCIL

St. Luke is looking for parishioners interested in joining Pastoral Council. You can nominate yourself or someone you feel might make a great candidate for council. We will then contact nominees to gain confirmation of interest and a vote will be taken by the parish. Successful nominees will take their place on council in August, 2021. Provided are some Q&A for your convenience.

### PARISH MISSION STATEMENT

St. Luke Parish is a Catholic Community who strives to be welcoming, evangelistic and of service so that all may experience the love of Jesus Christ.

### SOME COMMONLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT PASTORAL COUNCIL

**Q** – What is the purpose of Pastoral Council?

**A** – To assist the pastor in all spiritual and material matters relating to the good of the parish and to make recommendations to him. Help with fulfillment of the Mission of the Parish and the Diocese of Erie. To identify and serve the needs of the parishioners, vote on proposed contracts as well as make recommendations on expenditures over \$10,000.

**Q** – What sub-committees are available on Pastoral Council?

**A** – Members are asked to consider being a part of one of the committees on Pastoral Council which include: Parish Life and Education, Building and Grounds, Environment, Service and Bereavement, Youth Ministry, Communication/Social Media and Faith Formation.

**Q** – What is the time commitment expectation for council members?

**A** – Council meets the first Monday of each month (except July) from 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm. Additional time is at the member's discretion as their involvement in their committee dictates.

**Q** – How many parishioners are on Pastoral Council?

**A** – Pastoral Council consists of 15 members elected by the parish for a term of three years. Each year 5 members roll off and 5 new members are elected.

**Q** – Is there an age limit for Pastoral Council Members?

**A** – Yes, you must be 18 years of age or older and a registered member of the parish.

If you are interested in being a part of Pastoral Council and/or would like to learn more about it, please contact Ann Carlin, President of Pastoral Council, at [Ann.carlin@erieinsurance.com](mailto:Ann.carlin@erieinsurance.com) or 814-460-2783 by **February 15**. You can also drop the name and contact information of yourself or the person you would like to nominate in the collection basket at Mass.



## 2021 CATHOLIC SERVICE APPEAL

The weekend of February 20 - 21 is designated as Commitment Sunday for the annual Catholic Services Appeal. As a reminder, the purpose of the Catholic Services Appeal (CSA) is to help provide funding necessary to carry out the mission of our diocese, namely to fulfill our call to serve the people of Northwestern Pennsylvania. The CSA supports numerous diocesan services and ministries, some of which attends to needs that are beyond the scope of any individual parish. Some exist for the sole purpose of assisting parishes in their mission to teach, evangelize, and provide good liturgical experiences. *It is important that we, the people of our diocese recognize both aspects of the appeal.* This appeal is for the many services provided by the diocesan offices.

I ask that you please pray and ask God how you may be a part of Christ's continuing mission in this diocese. I do believe each of us has been, or will be, touched by one or more of the ministries offered. **These ministries/programs simply need and deserve our support so they may continue to touch the lives of many in good ways.** I believe I do have a responsibility to give back to our diocese that has given so much for so many. I hope you feel the same. St. Luke Parish has had a fine tradition of graciously supporting the diocesan ministries. Stewardship is, and always will be, the recognition of giving back to God through time, talent, and financial resources for all that God has given to us. For the year 2021, St. Luke Parish has been assessed \$59,218.00. Monetary donations from parishioners help to relieve this assessment. *Any money that is donated above the assessment, of course, stays within the parish.*

On a practical note, I do hope we are able to surpass our diocesan goal as monies that remain in our parish will be used to help us reach our "in-house" goal. Pastoral Council has met on several occasions to discuss our needs as we move forward, remaining close to and driven by our Parish Mission Statement, "St. Luke Parish is a Catholic Community who strives to be welcoming, evangelistic, and of service so that all may experience the love of Jesus Christ."

The area we feel needs to be addressed at this time is the continuation of building and expanding the use of technology in our church/parish space to maximize our ability to reach people and bring to them the Good News of Jesus.

As you know, we have been taking steps to bring adult Faith Formation Scripture/Theology lessons not only via email but also once a month on Sunday morning between the 9:00 and 11:30 Masses. Sr. Carmen's Faith Formation has been utilizing the church space throughout the year as she meets with parents, students, and staff. The MYRACLE Team from Mercyhurst University utilizes the church/parish space for Confirmation preparation sessions with our high school students. Our Youth Ministry is growing and utilizes the church/parish space. R.C.I.A. utilizes the space. And, of course, we utilize the space for worship services of all kinds, i.e. Mass, Penance Celebrations, etc.

Our goal is to continue to grow and expand what we offer...to research and discover new ways of introducing technology that can help us maximize our ability to reach people and bring them the Good News of Jesus.

*This, of course, will take time to unfold. What is needed now is to have the necessary means/equipment to bring Wi Fi into the church space. We are definitely limited in what we can do in the church space without it. Pastoral Council believes, as I do too, this is the proper and prudent way to begin.*

The monies raised to help bring in the livestream equipment has not gone unnoticed. It has made a tremendous difference and I thank you again for your support. I believe monies raised to help us expand the installation and use of technology in our church/parish space will also make a tremendous difference.

One final note...we have not forgotten about last year's goal of creating a "welcome space" in the back of the church. It's coming, but for obvious reasons we had to put it on hold during the pandemic.

**Please help us reach and surpass our goal.** \$5.00 or \$10.00 per month would be greatly appreciated. When you break it down, that comes to twenty-five or fifty cents per day. When you look at it that way, it is a reasonable request for programs that provide so much good. If you are able to provide more that would also be greatly appreciated.

*I will ask God to help guide me to make a pledge that is feasible. I ask that you might do the same. I also ask that those who were not able to make a pledge last year...perhaps you might be able to make one this year.*

I thank you for taking the time to read this. Asking for money is never easy yet is part of the reality of who we are as the people of God. Please pray that God will guide you to do what you can to help in this appeal. Most of all, please pray for success of the appeal, as the many services and ministries depend upon its outcome.

Peace,  
Fr. John

*Kindergarten thru 8th grade*

# OPEN HOUSE

## 12 TO 2pm

SUNDAY, FEB 21<sup>st</sup> & SUNDAY, FEB 28<sup>th</sup>

You are invited to visit one of our six campuses for an OPEN HOUSE to discover how we strive to instill in your child a strong moral character, skills for academic success and a zeal for service to others!

SUN FEB 21<sup>ST</sup> 12PM-2PM

*Blessed Sacrament, St. James,  
St. Jude, and St. Luke*

SUN FEB 28<sup>TH</sup> 12PM-2PM

*Our Lady of Peace and St. George*

Due to COVID-19 restrictions,  
school/classroom availability may be limited

Pre-registration is required: [www.ericatholic.org](http://www.ericatholic.org)



St. Luke Catholic Church  
Rev. John P. Malthaner, Pastor

# 2021 Lent Calendar



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		February	17 <i>Ash Wednesday</i>	18	19	20
"Lent is the liturgical season of forty days which begins with Ash Wednesday and ends with the celebration of the Paschal Mystery (Easter Triduum). Lent is the primary penitential season in the Church's liturgical year, reflecting the forty days Jesus spent in the desert fasting and praying" (Catechism of the Catholic Church).			If possible, attend an Ash Wednesday liturgy and wear the cross of ashes. If not, stream it.	Choose Lenten offerings of prayer, penance, and almsgiving.	Abstain from eating meat today, and make your meals truly penitential.	Pick a saint to learn about and imitate. Ask for his or her special help and protection during Lent.
21 After Mass, decide what you need to move aside in your life in order to truly experience Jesus during Lent.	22 Raise the level of your prayer and really think about the meaning of the words you are saying.	23 Put a cross, crucifix, or other image of Jesus in each room of your home to help keep you focused.	24 As an extra Lenten offering, give up something you enjoy — just for today.	25 Resolve to say only positive things about yourself today.	26 Pray for the people in the world who can't afford to have meat as a regular part of their diets.	27 Make a list of the ways you can support the poor and resolve to do one activity each week.
28 Choose someone who has passed away or needs extra help as your Mass intention today.	1 <b>March</b> Play an extra Rosary today and every day this week.	2 Forgive someone who has hurt you.	3 Ask Jesus to heal whatever separates you from feeling God's bountiful love.	4 Read the Ten Commandments (Exodus 20:1-17) and renew your commitment to keep them.	5 Eat a meatless meal and remember why you are abstaining.	6 Adopt a local nursing home. Make cards for the residents, and offer prayers for each of them.
7 Take one idea from today's Gospel reading or homily to implement during the coming week.	8 At the end of the day, make an examination of conscience. Resolve to amend your life.	9 Look for evidence of God at work in your life today.	10 Deal with anyone in your life who may be interfering with your relationship with God.	11 Try to find the time to read an entire Gospel at one sitting.	12 Make a fresh start on your Lenten journey today. Renew your Lenten observances.	13 Attend a parish Reconciliation Service, if you feel safe, or go to Confession on your own.
14 <b>Lectare Sunday</b> Celebrate the halfway point of Lent. Do something fun after Mass today.	15 Go to a private room, close the door, and pray to your Father in secret.	16 Ask God for a new grace today that will bring you closer to him.	17 Resolve to go the entire day without judging or criticizing anyone.	18 Pick one way you can simplify your lifestyle to make more room for God.	19 Figure out how much money you saved by not eating meat today and give it to the poor.	20 Trim down your possessions and give what you don't need to the poor.
21 Look around your neighborhood today for signs of new life.	22 Get up an extra 15 minutes each day for the next two weeks and spend that time in prayer.	23 Call Catholic Relief Services (877-HELP-CRS, www.catholicrelief.org) to see how you can help.	24 Make a conscious effort to see everyone with loving eyes today.	25 Today, pray for someone you don't like.	26 Eat pretzels today as a reminder that Catholics used to fast from milk, butter, eggs, cheese, cream, and meat.	27 Perform some act of service for your parish. Ask at the rectory for suggestions.
28 Place Palms around each of the images of Jesus in your home. Welcome the Messiah into your heart.	29 Recite the Profession of Faith or the Apostles' Creed each day this week.	30 Notice someone who may be hungry for love or attention and satisfy that hunger.	31 Try to find a reasonable explanation for some offense you may have suffered and let God be the final judge.	1 <b>April</b> Look for someone who is poor or homeless and share your food.	2 Meditate on the Stations of the Cross today. Try to imagine yourself at the scene of each one.	3 Think about a way in which you might have betrayed Jesus today. Ask his pardon.

# Growing in FAITH™

Discovering hope and joy in the Catholic faith.

February 2021

St. Luke Catholic Church  
Rev. John P. Malthaner, Pastor

## One Minute Meditations

### Struggle and prayer

During hard times, we can bring our true emotions, concerns, and fears into prayer. Lay it all at the feet of Jesus. Let His wisdom and love provide confidence and hope, even when our own emotions are in disarray. Struggling is normal and helpful to growing in faith. Standing before God in truth is a sign that we are in a right relationship with Him.

### The human person

Human beings are the clearest reflection of God among us. That makes human life sacred. The Catholic Church proclaims that the dignity of human life is the foundation of a moral vision for society.

Catholics are called to work to uphold the dignity and rights of all people. Catholics work for the good of everyone, especially working to support marriage and family.

"In all created things discern the providence and wisdom of God, and in all things give Him thanks"

(St. Teresa of Avila).



## Grow in love during Lent

The point of the season of Lent is to transform our hearts – to become new, ready to greet our new life at Easter. "A new heart I will give you, and a new spirit I will put within you; and I will take out of your flesh the heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh" (Ezekiel 36:26). We can use this time in the desert to live lives of love for God and for one another.

**Affirmation:** Recognizing and acknowledging the valuable qualities of a beloved builds feelings of trust, safety, and wellbeing. Offer God praise from your heart. Don't keep

it to yourself, speak it out loud. Tell others how awesome He is and what He can do for them.

**Attention:** Spending time with God, one on one, is vital to getting through the day in His friendship. Give Him your attention each day, tell Him everything, and listen to what He says back to you. Being a good listener will benefit all your relationships, too. **Gifts:** There is no point trying to impress God. He needs nothing that we have. However, we can give Him a gift from the heart. We can tithe, offer service, attend Mass, repent, change our lives to live His law. We can act as His hands and feet on Earth.



## Why Do Catholics Do That?

## Why do Catholics pray?

Prayer is the raising of one's mind and heart to God, asking for good things in harmony with His will. Christian prayer is the lifeblood of an intimate relationship of the children of God with their Father, with

his Son Jesus Christ, and with the Holy Spirit who dwells in their hearts.

All religions, and salvation history in particular, testifies to the human desire for God. And God continues to draw every person to the mysterious encounter known as prayer.

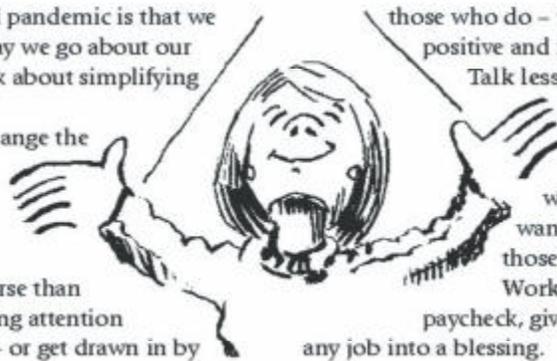


## Simple ways to live a better life

One consequence of a protracted pandemic is that we are almost forced to rethink the way we go about our daily lives. It's a good time to think about simplifying the way we live:

Live in the moment. We can't change the past and dwelling on the future is unproductive. The choices we make right now are all that count.

Avoid drama. There will always be someone whose situation is worse than our own. If you find yourself seeking attention and sympathy from other people – or get drawn in by



those who do – try substituting activities you find positive and interesting instead. Prayer helps.

Talk less. Weigh your words before you say them. Spend more time listening.

Spend time with happy people.

Connect in safe and healthy ways with people who are positive and want to improve their lives. Let go of those who drain your energy.

Work happy. No matter how you earn a paycheck, give it your very best effort. That turns any job into a blessing.

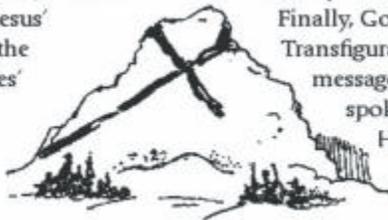
### from Scripture

### Luke 9:23-36, Lingering on the mountaintop

While the Transfiguration was a fantastic encounter, it was not particularly joyful. Moses and Elijah spoke with Jesus about "his exodus that he was going to accomplish in Jerusalem" (9:31). They referred to Jesus' death, as the shadow of the Cross loomed. Like Moses' exodus from slavery in Egypt however, Jesus' exodus would deliver His people from the slavery of sin.

When he offered to build shelters for the three men, Peter clearly wanted to remain on the mountaintop in this holy moment. Sometimes we have an

inspiring experience and want to stay there avoiding the realities of daily life. Yet, like Jesus, we cannot linger on the mountaintop but must come down to take our place in the Kingdom.



Finally, God used the Transfiguration to speak a message – the same one He spoke at Jesus' baptism.

He confirmed Jesus as His son, the Messiah, and added, "Listen to Him." The son of God has God's power and authority. If we believe that Jesus is the son of God, then surely we will want to do what He says.

### Feasts & Celebrations

February 11 – Our Lady of Lourdes (1858). A heavenly lady who called herself, "The Immaculate Conception," appeared to St. Bernadette Soubirous, a poor girl from a village in France. After the first vision of the Blessed Virgin Mary, a spring with miraculous healing waters emerged from a nearby cave.

February 17 – Ash Wednesday. Marking the first day of Lent, ashes from the palms of the previous Passion Sunday are blessed and placed on the forehead as a sign of penance. One form of Lenten observance is to pray before the Stations of the Cross,

meditating on Jesus' walk to Calvary. February 22 – St. Peter's Chair (1st century). We celebrate St. Peter's establishment of the Holy See and pray for the preservation of God's Church.

February 23 – St. Polycarp (156). As Bishop of Smyrna, Polycarp faithfully cared for his flock despite being surrounded by pagans and a government opposed to his religion.

Before being martyred, he thanked God for making him worthy of a martyr's death.



### Q & A Is it possible for real people to be holy?

On its simplest level, being holy means living a life centered on God. This is done by talking with Him continuously, imitating His behavior, and respecting His creations. It also means being part of the Church He established on Earth to help us be holy. Try this:



Talk to God. Spending time together is the best way to get to know God better.

Practice sharing. God wants us to take care of each other. Look for ways to share your money, time, and talents with someone who needs them.

Celebrate the Sacraments. Make Sunday Mass the highlight of your week. Attend if you can do it safely, stream it if you can't. Just don't miss it.

Be a voice in the wilderness. When you notice an injustice, speak out and take action. Treat all people with the dignity they deserve as children of God.

Share your faith. Talk about God with anyone who will listen. We can't keep His love to ourselves. We have to pass it on.

### Our Mission

To provide practical ideas that promote faithful Catholic living.

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(Unless noted Bible quotes and references are from the Revised Standard Version and the New American Bible - Revised)

**MEMORIAL CONTRIBUTIONS** to St. Luke Church were received, in loving of **Clarence "Buck" Swahn, Jr.**, from Rosalie Tellers, Lisa and Charles Jenkins, Gaw Investigations, LLC, Timothy Spaeder, and a friend of the family. A memorial to St. Luke Church was also received, in loving memory of **Robert Meister**, from Gary and Tillie Miller.

**MEMORIAL CONTRIBUTIONS** to the St. Luke Msgr. Goodill Education Fund were received, in loving memory of **Robert Potalivo**, from Rosalie Tellers, Harry and Anna West, and Tim Spaeder.

**A FAMILY PERSPECTIVE** - In today's gospel Jesus went to the "house of Andrew and Simon" to relax but discovered that Simon's mother-in-law was very ill. Like Jesus we come home to relax but are often confronted with problems. Take a tip from Andrew and Simon and tell Jesus about it "immediately."

**THANK YOU** to a parishioner who so kindly donated the Word Among Us, the Lent edition for 2021. Their donation was received after the January 31st bulletin was printed.

**LITTLE BLACK BOOKS** will be available **next weekend, February 13 & 14**. If you have six minutes a day that you can devote to our Lord over Lent, then please take a complimentary Little Black Book.

**ST. BONIFACE SOUP-ER BOWL SPECTACULAR** will take place at the St. Boniface Coleman Center, 9367 Wattsburg Rd. in Erie, from **11:00 am until 2:00 pm today, February 7**. There will be soup and sandwiches for pre-order or take out. Raffle items include 3 - \$100 gas cards and 3 - \$100 grocery cards. To place your order or purchase raffle tickets, visit <http://www.stbonifaceparisherie.org/index.php> or on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/bonifaceparish/>. For more information, please call the St. Boniface Parish office at 814-825-4439.

**THE 8TH ANNUAL 22:32 MEN'S CONFERENCE**, typically offered to hundreds of men at one location, will be held **Saturday, February 27**, at separate parishes in the Diocese of Erie. The half-day event still features acclaimed Catholic speakers and witness stories that may be heard via Zoom beginning at 9:00 am and ending at noon. For more information, contact Dave Wayman at [taichiguy@icloud.com](mailto:taichiguy@icloud.com) or 814-397-2809.

## MASS SCHEDULE



### SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 6

4:30 †Mary Louise Wagner (The Schiller Family)

### SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 7

9:00 †J. Howard Klebes (Helen T. Klebes)

11:30 †John Stanley (The Kaverman-Palotas Family)

6:00 Mass for the People

### MONDAY, FEBRUARY 8

(**Sts. Jerome Emiliani & Josephine Bakhita**)

8:00 †Christopher DeCree (Granddaughter, Theresa)

5:15 †Richard Meyer (Sue & Jerry Verga)

### TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 9

8:00 †Rose & Anthony Ciannella and  
Henry & Mary Jaraczewski (Estate)

5:15 †Bob Potalivo (Audrey Tuttle)

### WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 10 (St. Scholastica)

8:30 Mass for the People

5:15 †(Anniv) Dolly Bargielski (Larry & Family)

### THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 11 (Our Lady of Lourdes)

8:00 †Ann Carlin (Jerry & Sue Verga)

5:15 †Mary Ann Toohey (The Stephen Habursky Family)

### FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 12

8:30 †Ann "Antoinette" Carlin (Lydia & Teresa Borowy)

### SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 13

4:30 †Stanley T. Widomski (Judy & Lori Krasnesky)

### SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 14

9:00 †Robert Meister (Ann & Mike Carlin)

11:30 †Joan Kuhl (Dale & Karen Winarski)

6:00 Mass for the People



*The sanctuary candle is burning this week in honor of the Blessed Sacrament and in loving memory of Dianne D'Annibale from her husband and family.*

## ALTAR SERVER SCHEDULE

(You are RESPONSIBLE to find your own sub)

### SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 6

4:30 Lola Lubomski

### SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 7

9:00 Michael Kuzma

11:30 Nate Firman

6:00 Volunteer

### SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 13

4:30 Christian Hoke

### SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 14

9:00 Caitlin Dugan

11:30 Rob Connor

6:00 Volunteer



*(Thank you for your time and effort in helping with this important ministry.)*

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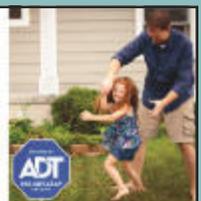
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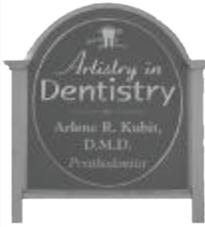
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