

St. Luke Roman Catholic Church
421 E. 38th Street Erie, PA 16504 814-825-6920
APRIL 24, 2022

2nd SUNDAY OF EASTER
(DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY)

Thomas answered and said to him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him,
"Have you come to believe because you have seen me? Blessed are those who
have not seen and have believed." - Jn 20:28-29

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Church Office 825-6920
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Faith Formation faithformation@slserie.org
Church Website www.stlukeerie.org
Facebook www.facebook.com/lukealive
Prayer Chain 866-1487
School Office 825-7105
School Fax 825-7169
School Website www.eriecatholic.org/sls
K of C Email gk11229@outlook.com

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

8:30 am-12:00 pm - 1:00 pm-5:00 pm (M - Th)
8:30 am-12:00 pm-1:00 pm-3:30 pm (F)
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 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 814-454-1634.

*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.*

PARISH STAFF

Pastor Rev. John P. Malthaner
Deacons Rev. Dr. Richard Shewman
Rev. Mr. Glenn Kuzma
Faith Formation Director
Sr. Carmen Maldonado, SSC
School Principal Donald Fuller
Advancement Director JoAnn Scheppner
Music Ministers Maggi Minick and
Ted Fuhrman
Grand Knight Nick Surkala
Office Staff Deidre Brown
Maintenance Director Bruce Honard

PASTOR'S DESK

For almost two years, those who are registered on our St. Luke email list have received weekly Scripture lessons. One of those lessons was a series on the Acts of the Apostles. The Acts of the Apostles (that many scholars agree was written by St. Luke), is a beautiful testimony of the early Christian community as it begins to fulfill Jesus' words when he said, "Go forth and Baptize in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit...and know that I am with you always until the end of time." The Acts of the Apostles is important for many reasons, one of them being that apart from what we can gather from the letters of St. Paul, there would be little information about the early Church. St. Luke gives a bird's eye view of the young Christian community in Jerusalem enriched with the exploits of the heroic figures of the early church. His purpose was to show how Christianity, a religion which began in a small corner of Palestine, had expanded. Indeed, the words of the risen Christ were coming to fulfillment, "You shall be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria and to the ends of the earth." The firm belief of the early Christian community was that Christ, whom had been crucified unjustly, had been raised by the Father from the dead and was now in glory at the Father's right hand in heaven. The other great bond of unity and strength that made them a vibrant community was found in the breaking of the bread...the Holy Eucharist. It would be the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, whose assistance and direction Christ promised them, that would then give them the strength to spread the Good News with a sense of commitment and conviction.

What must strike the reader is the story of the disciples' relationship with Christ and the infinite power of God's grace on the minds and in the hearts of human beings. We must remember that Jesus of Nazareth lived, preached, and died as a human being in the eyes of those who were His enemy and those who followed Him. That He had power and miracles from God many believed. That He would use this power to prevent his enemies from capturing and condemning Him to death most likely was the inner hope of many until the reality of His arrest and all that followed. What they did not grasp until the Resurrection was that He was the true Son of God, even though He had given many hints of it. They would come to know that Christ was *the one*, acting as representative of the human race to carry out the divine plan, giving absolute obedience to the Father, even though that led Him to death on a cross. By doing

this Jesus earned for all humankind the title of adopted children of God and heirs of heaven.

Once the Apostles grasped the reality of the Resurrection, they recognized (in the beloved Master whom they had followed for three years) Jesus as God-human... the one who had drained the cup of human sufferings to its bitter end, and the one who, after completing the task His Father had given Him to do, gave to the apostles the gift of the Holy Spirit. The Resurrection proved that Jesus Christ was God as well as human. It was with this knowledge and belief that prompted the early Christian community to live with one mind and one heart. It was through their continued relationship with the risen Christ through the gift of the Holy Spirit that would prompt them to grow as a community of believers.

Acts of the Apostles depicts the fulfillment of God's saving plan, where the Holy Spirit is the ultimate realization of the promises of Abraham. The Spirit would empower Christians to preach, heal, cast out evil spirits, and even witness unto death. The risen Jesus would indeed continue to act through his Spirit-filled disciples and followers. Acts is filled with accounts of how the early Church dealt with change, persecution, growth, questions, confusion, and internal struggles. If these words sound familiar, it is because the Church today deals with many of the same issues, although in different time and space. The importance of Acts continues to reinforce the power of God made flesh through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. We all recognize that if were up to just us as human beings, the Church would have never been able to grow and influence so many. Acts reiterates the age-old saying that it is not about us...that it has never been about us... rather, it is about our Lord working through us. Acts is our story, complete with people like you and me who have been called by our Lord to "Do this in memory of me."

As we enter into this Easter Season in preparation for the great Feast of Pentecost, let us listen closely to the readings from the Acts of the Apostles, and when time permits, take a moment or two and read through this beautiful piece of Scripture.

Peace,
Fr. John



ST. LUKE FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Monthly Budgeted:..... \$36,250.00

Sunday Collections as of April 17, 2022

Monthly Electronic Contributions	\$4,713.00
Sunday 04/03/2022	\$8,213.00
Sunday 04/10/2022	\$8,564.75
Sunday 04/17/2022	\$3,935.36
Easter 04/17/2022	\$3,993.00
Sunday 04/24/2022	\$
Total Monthly Collection to Date.....	\$29,419.11

YTD budgeted \$362,250 YTD collected \$355,322.36.

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.



YOU ARE INVITED to join the Legion of Mary in praying the rosary **every Wednesday at 1:00 pm** in the church.

VOTIVE CANDLES - St. Luke has tried to keep the cost of the votive candles to \$2.00 each. The candles have changed and the church orders in large quantities to keep the cost at a minimum. However with rising prices, the candle donations must increase to cover the cost. The cost per candle is \$3.00 each.

NEW MENTORING PROGRAM - *Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers. By so doing, some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it!* Do you love St. Luke? Would you be willing to share your love of your parish with a new parishioner? We are looking for mentors to be paired up with a new family or individual to welcome them and help them become acclimated to our community. It would be a minimal time commitment and guidelines would be provided. If you are able to participate in this very important ministry, please call Karen Hund at 450 -3711 or email Patty Bensur at pbensur@bensur.com.



COFFEE AND DONUTS will be served in the cafeteria, hosted by Pastoral Council, following the Sunday 9:00 am and 11:30 am Masses next weekend, **Sunday, May 1.**



Please pray for the soul of **Francis Denslinger**, father of parishioner Paul Denslinger, who passed away this past week. Our sympathy is extended to his family.

MEMORIAL DONATIONS to the St. Luke & Our Lady of Mount Carmel Food Pantry were made in loving memory of **Alice Schultz** from Terry Lackovic, Roger & Karen Reed, Quentin & Barbara McQuaid, Patricia Shufelt, Barbara J. McQuaid, Bill & Sandra Raymond, The Shufelt & Moyer Families, David & Susan Daugherty, Heidi Freytag, Rosalia Mong and John & Barbara Reitingner

A MEMORIAL DONATION to St. Luke Church was received in loving memory of **John Maughn** from family and friends.

DIOCESAN WEBPAGE CREATED TO SUPPORT UKRAINE - A diocesan webpage has been created to keep people updated on ways they can support the people of Ukraine. Please click the banner on the main diocesan website at www.ErieRCD.org to learn about regional donation drives, prayer resources, or other ways to donate online. Send information on any additional donation drives or support efforts to Patrice Swick in the Office of Social Justice and Life at pswick@ErieRCD.org. Information on the page will be updated regularly.

CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH - Throughout the Gospel, Christ calls upon His followers to care for the most vulnerable among us, especially the children. Mandated Reporters in the Diocese of Erie are people who hold positions of trust in our schools, parishes, agencies, and institutions and are mandated by Pennsylvania law and the Diocesan Policy for the Protection of Children to report suspected abuse of a minor. All employees and volunteers working/serving for the Diocese of Erie, in our parishes, schools or agencies are mandated reporters both legally and morally obligated to report any reasonable suspected or known child abuse to ChildLine, the local police, or other appropriate agency. Visit www.erieRCD.org/childprotection/ to learn the specific procedures required by the diocese.



A FAMILY PERSPECTIVE - Jesus connects **PEACE** and **FORGIVENESS** in today's gospel. In our families we will only experience peace to the extent we forgive one another. Peace is purchased with the currency of forgiveness. When we allow our anger and pride to lock out others, we also lock out peace and harmony.

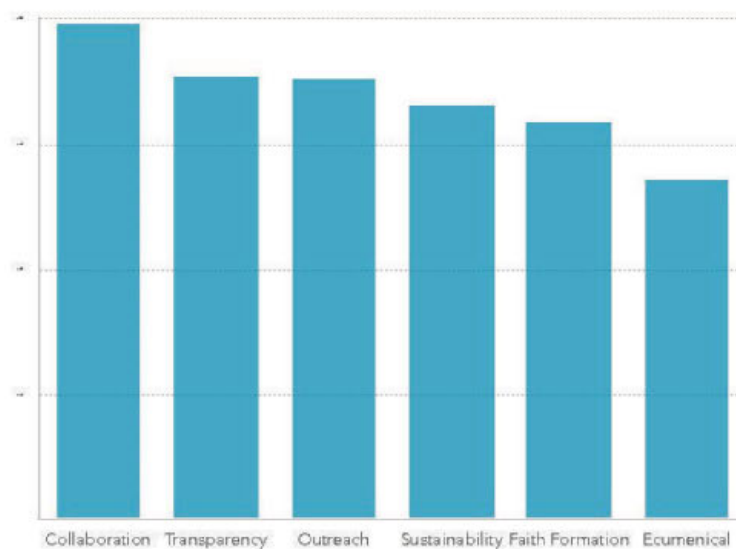
EAST ERIE DEANERY PASTORAL PLANNING

Survey Results (1107 respondents)

Survey Questions

1. To which parish do you belong?
2. What is your age?
3. How long have you been a member of your parish?
4. How often do you attend Mass at parishes other than your own?
5. How often do you attend Mass?
6. Apart from Mass, are you engaged in other parish ministries or activities?
7. Place the elements of a common vision in order of importance.
8. How vibrant is your parish?
9. What do you find attractive about your parish?
10. What concerns you about your parish?
11. As the planning process unfolds, is there anything you want us to know?

Elements of a Common Vision



A Common Vision

As pastors of the East Erie Deanery, we have identified six characteristics for ensuring a vibrant Catholic presence into the future: collaboration, outreach, faith formation, ecumenism, transparency, and sustainability. In other words, we must cultivate a willingness to work with one another (**collaboration**) and we must create an atmosphere of hospitality that welcomes others into our communities and ministries (**outreach**) and must work with other Christians who may not share our Catholic faith (**ecumenism**). We must continue to demonstrate a commitment to grow in our faith throughout our life's journey (**faith formation**). Finally, our communities need to be open and honest in our communication and dialogue (**transparency**) when considering how to best manage our facilities, our ministries, and our communities with an eye ever fixed on the future (**sustainability**).

Notable Statistics

- **50% of respondents have belonged to their current parish for 30 or more years.**
- **71% of respondents are over the age of 60.**
- **The #1 concern of respondents was maintaining parish identity.**
- **The #2 concern of respondents was parish finances.**
- **When asked to assess the vibrancy of their parish with 1 being least vibrant and 8 being most vibrant, 72% of respondents identified their parish as a 6 or higher.**
- **86% of respondents usually attend Mass at the parish where they are registered.**
- **Nearly 60% of respondents are engaged in parish activities outside of Mass.**

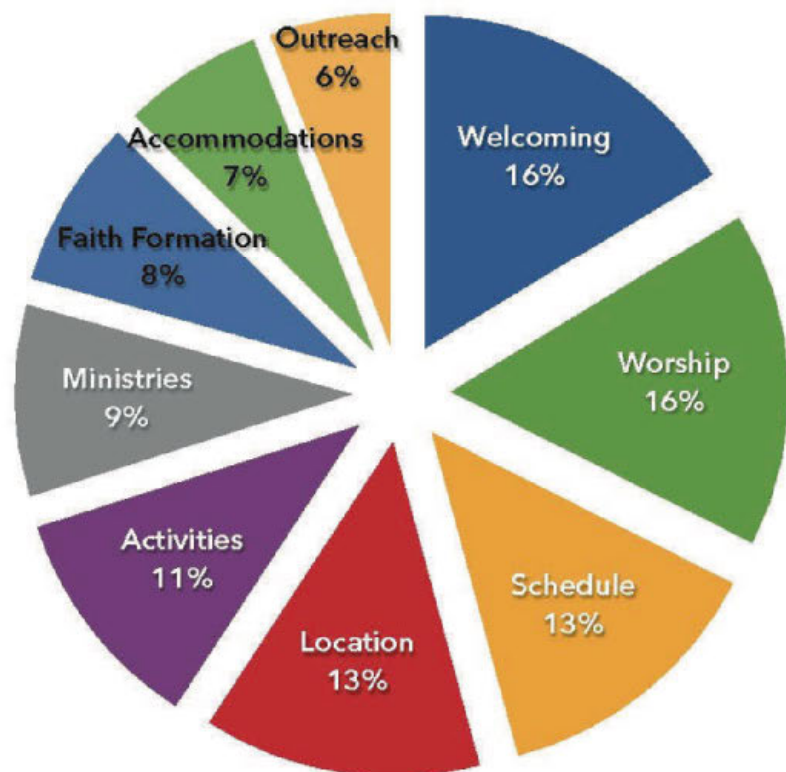
Building Future Together

To those who participated in the survey, Thank you! We received more than 1100 responses. If you were not able to participate, there will be plenty more opportunities to provide input and support the planning process.

As a next step, we will begin working with parishes to create structures for the planning process. These structures will be important for maintaining collaboration and transparency as well as developing and guiding the planning process as it unfolds.

While the surveys revealed areas that need attention as we look to the future, they also affirmed many of our common strengths.

What attracts you to your parish?



Parishes Represented in Survey

Holy Rosary Parish, Holy Trinity Parish, Our Lady of Mercy Parish, Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish, Our Mother of Sorrows Parish, Mount Calvary Parish, St. Gregory Thaumaturgus Parish, St. Boniface Parish, St. James Parish, St. John the Baptist Parish, St. Luke Parish, St. Mark the Evangelist Parish, St. Patrick Parish, St. Stanislaus Parish



Donations for the Easter flowers and decorations were received from the following in loving memory of:

Ed & Agnes Kern; and Ray & Jane Kalivoda
from Ray and Carol Kalivoda
Maureen McCall from mother, Rosemary
Carol Sharp from husband Dan

Kathy Masolotte; Jim Masolotte; Sue Masolotte; Jack O'Rourke; Peg O'Rourke; Rudy Crispeno; and Debra Pockey from Mark Masolotte
Tom P. Cox, Jr; and Ned J. Zaffino from sister & wife, Judy Zaffino
Earl & Elizabeth Hersperger from Joan Hersperger



April 11, 2022

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Since the Diocese of Erie was established on July 29, 1853, we have been blessed with many men who have devoted their lives to the priesthood. These priests have faithfully served and led the faithful in living out their lives as Catholics.

When a priest is ordained, he takes on the pastoral responsibility for the lives of others. He accepts and accompanies those he serves during happy times, such as marriage and baptism, as well as during difficult times of sickness and grief. He leads us in worship, hears our confessions, prays over our loved ones. He is our shepherd, pointing the way to Christ.

Eventually the time comes when a priest will retire, usually due to age or medical challenges. A priest typically retires when he is 75. Even after that age, priests eligible to retire have continued to serve as pastors and administrators in our diocese. The people of the Diocese of Erie are called to share in the care of our retired priests and help provide for the future of those priests who care for and serve you now.

On the weekend of April 30th and May 1st you will have the opportunity to give to those who have faithfully served you throughout their lives, by contributing to our annual Good Shepherd Collection for retired diocesan priests. Every gift is appreciated for this worthy cause.

Pope Francis encourages us: "Dear people of God, be close to your priests with affection and with your prayers, that they may be shepherds according to God's heart. And pray for those whom God is calling to be priests that they may respond to this call with humility and joy."

Thank you in advance for your prayerful and generous support for our retired priests. I wish you and your families a blessed Easter season.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+Lawrence T. Persico

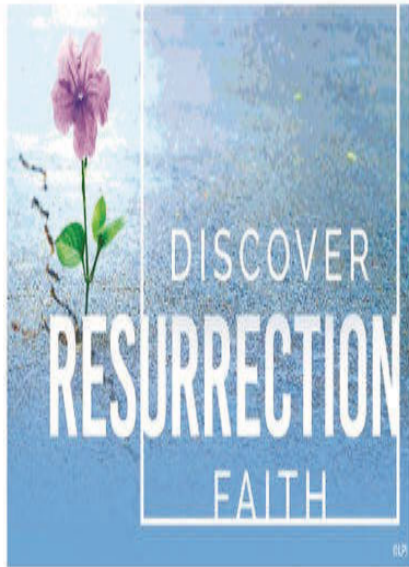
The Most Reverend Lawrence T. Persico, JCL
Bishop of Erie



GOSPEL MEDITATION

ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE

Even Thomas struggles to remove his boulder! Being very pragmatic and determined, he wants to see the risen Christ for himself! Thomas's boulder is heavy with mistrust. Many of ours are too. A certain amount of skepticism is good, as it can save us from being duped or misled. But we can become so skeptical of things that it erodes our ability to trust anything we see or hear. Skepticism can actually be a well-disguised defense mechanism that we use to prevent us from being hurt or perceived as a fool. Having too much ego protection is a real risk. Thomas, because of the boulder blocking his vision, could not even trust the word of his friends.



our lives and inspire us when we cling to doubt. If we are going to discover resurrection faith, we have to believe that what the witnesses say is true, especially when they are credible. We also have to trust that the risen Christ is alive in us, too!

While the first witnesses to the resurrection have faded into history, there are many others who have come after them. They continue to inspire by walking the talk of faith. They are the martyrs who offer their lives for the Gospel, the simple holy people in our communities who

cling so steadfastly to their faith, those who have touched despair and found new hope and the ones who, even in spite of ridicule, still pursue their hunger and thirst for God. They are our friends, acquaintances, biblical heroes, and saints, and many others who are convinced that they have seen the Lord! The risen Christ may not surprise us with the same kind of visit as he did the first disciples, but God finds other ways. All we have to do is open our eyes, remove whatever is preventing us from seeing and believing and exclaim: "My Lord and my God!"

Boulders are hard to move. It's difficult to seek change or take a risk, especially when we are so afraid to be vulnerable or reluctant to trust another's word. When we are closed minded, overly pragmatic, unwilling to see things in a different way, stubborn or defensive, it is difficult to be surprised by God and stretched. We need to be less guarded, self-assured, and self-absorbed. God cannot break into the ordinary moments of

Thomas answered and said to him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you come to believe because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed."

- Jn 20:28-29

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APRIL 24, 2022

CLM

MASS SCHEDULE



SATURDAY, APRIL 23

4:30 †(Anniv) Dianne D'Annibale (Husband & Family)

SUNDAY, APRIL 24 (Divine Mercy Sunday)

9:00 †James Metzler (Family)

11:30 †Fred Sipple (Jean Yurkovic & Joe & Alice Brasington)

6:00 Mass for the People

MONDAY, APRIL 25 (St. Mark)

8:00 †Jane Lyons (Jennifer & Stephen Habursky)

5:15 †(Birth) Annette Kruszewski (Husband, Wes)

TUESDAY, APRIL 26

8:00 †(Birth) Genevieve Nuber (Sue & Jerry Verga)

5:15 †(Birth) Mae Lichtenberger (Husband, Bob)

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 27

8:00 †(Anniv) Richard Korzeniewski (Estate)

5:15 †Joanne Sebunga (Ron & Patti Kane)

THURSDAY, APRIL 28

(Sts. Peter Chanel, Louis Grignion de Montfort)

8:00 †Paul Sage (Sam & Pat Sauer)

5:15 †Glenn Miller (Janet & Tim Gehrlein)

FRIDAY, APRIL 29 (St. Catherine of Siena)

8:00 †(Anniv) David Vossburg (Mom, Sally)

SATURDAY, APRIL 30

4:30 †Leo Bruno (Shirley & Gary Skiba)

SUNDAY, MAY 1

9:00 †Philip Bruno II (Susan Casella)

11:30 †Helen Gatenby (Family)

2:00 First Holy Communicants

6:00 Mass for the People



The sanctuary candle is burning this week in honor of the Blessed Sacrament and in loving memory of Mae Lichtenberger from Husband, Bob

ALTAR SERVER SCHEDULE

(You are RESPONSIBLE to find your own sub)

WEEK OF APRIL 25

8:00 Izabela Stevens M-F

5:15 Linnea Nielsen M-Th

SATURDAY, APRIL 30

4:30 Addyson Ramsey

SUNDAY, MAY 1

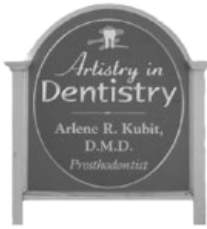
9:00 Morgan Tatar

11:30 Lexy & Aiden Kosobucki

6:00 Volunteer



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