

Blessed Sacrament Church

1626 W. 26th Street • Erie, PA 16508
814-454-0171 • www.bsparisherie.org
February 7, 2021

**COMMITMENT SUNDAY
FEBRUARY 14**



DIOCESE OF ERIE

**FORWARD
TOGETHER**

2021 Catholic Services Appeal

Blessed Sacrament Parish Mission Statement

To nourish our love of God through Jesus Christ under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Centered in the Eucharist, we are developing a faith community through prayer, education, worship and Christian fellowship. As stewards of God's love, we strive to share our gifts and talents for the service of God and all His people.

PARISH DIRECTORY

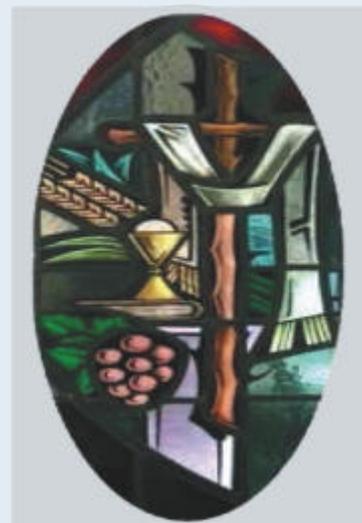
Parish Office 814-454-0171
 Parish Office Hours
 Monday—Friday 8am—4:00pm
 Closed for Lunch 12:00-12:30pm
 E-mail dfisher@bserie.org
 Website www.bsparisherie.org
 School 814-455-1387
 Cafeteria 814-455-7113
 Gym Scheduling Mark Kloecker 881-1016
 Prayer Requests 860-6211
 Bulletin Deadline Monday at noon

Pete Sala pjsalaw@yahoo.com
 President of Ushers
Mary Jo Fulton mjfulton@roadrunner.com
 Chairperson of Pastoral Council
Carmen Phillips carmp2020@outlook.com
 Chairperson of Finance Council
Al Smith allen.smith@wabtec.com
 Knights of Columbus
Jim Theisen webmaster@bserie.org
 Webmaster for the parish www.bsparisherie.org
Melissa Baldwin mbaldwin@eriecatholic.org
 Webmaster for the school www.bspschoolerie.org
Michael Scalise twintek@velocity.net
 Parish Foodbank Coordinator

If child abuse is suspected call:
 PA Child Line: 1-800-932-0313

PASTORAL STAFF

Father Philip Pinczewski ~ Pastor
 pastorphil@bserie.org
 Kevin Kunik ~ Permanent Deacon
 kevinkunik@hotmail.com
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 Joyce Wickles ~ Business Manager
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 Diane Fisher ~ Parish Secretary
 dfisher@bserie.org



♯ HEARING DEVICES AVAILABLE
 & HANDICAP ACCESSIBLE

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".

CHURCH SANCTUARY CANDLE

The Church Sanctuary Candle will burn this week in loving memory of Ralph Bruno from his children.

CHAPEL SANCTUARY CANDLE

The Church Sanctuary Candle will burn this week in loving memory of Sil Danowski from Jean & Alexa Gleason.

MARRIAGE MOMENTS

If you're too busy to have a weekly date with your spouse, you may be too busy. Tonight, choose several hours next weekend that you can devote just to each other. This time the wife plans what to do, next time it's the husband's turn.

IMPORTANT



Reminder: Face masks must be properly fitted and worn over both nose and mouth at all times in Blessed Sacrament buildings. Also, please remember to keep a six foot distance from those in households other than your own when seated for Mass. We want to keep all of you safe.

LECTOR SCHEDULE

February 13 @ 4:00pm Lisa Dietrich
February 14 @ 8:30pm Gerri Piecuch
February 14 @ 11:00pm Jim Ackman

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday, February 8—Weekday

8:00 +Leah & Rachel Duda / Pam & Rich Moore

Tuesday, February 9—Weekday

8:00 *People of Blessed Sacrament Parish

Wednesday, February 10—St. Scholastica

8:00 +Special Intention / Carol & Don Delo

1:15 +Doris Wisinski Baranello / Family

Thursday, February 11—Weekday

8:00 +Theodore & Winifred Niebauer /
Theodore Niebauer, Jr.

Friday, February 12—Weekday

8:00 +NO MASS

Saturday, February 13—6th Sunday in Ordinary Time

4:00 +Helen Hilbert / Renzi Family

Sunday, February 14—6th Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:30 *People of Blessed Sacrament

11:00 +John Kromar / Peck Family

7:30 +Richard & Nina Grumblatt / Family

* Living

MASS SCHEDULE

Daily Mass in the Church at 8am

Monday thru Thursday

*On the first Friday of the month...Mass at 8am
followed by Eucharistic Adoration 8:30-9:30am*

Saturday Vigil: 4:00pm

*Sunday: 8:30am**, 11:00am and 7:30pm***

***these Masses will be livestreamed on our
parish website & Facebook page*

RECONCILIATION

Saturday: 3:00—3:45pm

and by appointment



???QUESTION OF THE WEEK???

Question for Children: What can you do to help your friends and classmates know more about Jesus?

Question for Youth: Jesus knew that his mission was for everyone, not just one village or group of people. How can you reach out to others (outside of friends and family) and offer them hope and Good News?

Question for Adults: If you were going to pray for healing for any reason, what would it be? What needs to be healed in our world and society?

From Our Pastor

In today's First Reading, Job describes the futility of life before Christ. Job laments reminding us of the curse of toil and death placed upon Adam following his original sin. Men and women are like slaves seeking shade, unable to find rest. Their lives are like the wind that comes and goes.

But, as we sing in today's Psalm, He who created the stars promised to heal the broken-hearted and gather those lost in exile from Him. We see this promise fulfilled in today's Gospel. In the Gospel we hear of Simon's mother-in-law and she is toiling like Job, hopeless humanity. She is laid low by affliction but too weak to save herself.

But as God promised to take His chosen people by the hand, Jesus grasps Simon's mother-in-law by the hand and helps her up. The word translated "help" is actually Greek for "raising up." The same verb is used when Jesus commands a dead girl to arise. It's used again to describe His own resurrection. What Jesus has done for Simon's mother-in-law, He has done for all humanity—raised all of us who lay dead through our sins.

Notice all the words of totality and completeness in the Gospel. The whole town gathers; all the sick are brought to Him. He drives out demons in the whole of Galilee. Everyone is looking for Christ. We too have found Him. By our baptism, He healed and raised us to live in His presence.

Like Simon's mother-in-law, there is only one way we can thank Him for the new life He has given us. We must rise to serve Him and His gospel. Our lives must be our thanksgiving, as Paul describes in today's Epistle, the second reading. We must tell everyone the good news, the purpose for which Jesus has come—that others, too, may have a share in this salvation.

This week you will receive a letter explaining the need of your support of the 2021 Catholic Services Appeal. Through your support of the 2021 CSA the Diocese of Erie can evangelize, educate, serve, proclaim the Word, celebrate the sacraments and give hope to thousands. Your support of the CSA makes this important work possible. We would hope to exceed our assigned goal of \$71,158 and use the funds given above this to go to our parish debt to the Erie Catholic School System. We have not been able to pay our Catholic school support since I have arrived here. Declining offertory income, less fundraising income have contributed to this debt to the Diocese for the school assessment. At the moment we owe \$257,665.00. Currently we pay approximately \$12,000 a month toward the current and outstanding balances which is all we can do with what you generously contribute. Commitment Sunday is February 14. Please prayerfully consider how you are able to share your gifts in support of this year's CSA to help advance the mission of Jesus Christ.

More details next week about the Lenten opportunities that will be offered here at Blessed Sacrament.

Enjoy the Super Bowl. I will watch but just interested in the commercials!!

Peace,
Fr. Phil

22:32 MEN

Be Not Afraid!

2021 CONFERENCE

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 27TH 9:00 AM - 12:00 Noon Event
At a Parish near you
Check our website for a list of parishes

All Faiths are Welcome!
Inspiring NATIONAL SPEAKERS including:



JOHN LEONETTI



JOHN EDWARDS



22:32 MEN



Master of Ceremonies
FR. LARRY RICHARDS

"BUT I HAVE PRAYED FOR YOU
THAT YOUR FAITH MAY NOT FAIL,
AND WHEN YOU HAVE TURNED BACK,
STRENGTHEN YOUR BROTHERS."
LUKE 22:32



**BISHOP LAWRENCE
PERSICO**

We have decentralized our conference for this year to mitigate the potential for covid exposure. Our website has a list of parishes where small groups can gather for the conference.

\$15/Adult
\$10/Group of 8 or More
\$5/High School Student

www.2232Men.com
info@2232Men.com
for more details and to register.

The Sixth Annual
1:38 WOMEN'S CONFERENCE
MARCH 20, 2021



Bee the Attitude
"REJOICE & BE GLAD!"
MATTHEW 5:12

THE HIVE
OUR LADY OF PEACE PARISH / 3401 W. 38th St., Erie
9:00 AM to 12:00 PM / Cost: Donation only
Adoration, Confession and Mass / Master of Ceremonies: Fr. Larry Richards

THE SPEAKERS



CARALYN DOLLAR
Writer and speaker for
BeautyBeyondBoxes blog



ALYSSA BORRIES
Catholic educator, author, speaker
and radio host on Catholic Kaleidoscope

THREE WAYS TO BEE WITH US

1. Live in-person at Our Lady of Peace Parish.
2. Virtually at satellite parishes via Zoom. Participating parishes to be announced on the website.
3. Virtually via Zoom at your own home.

We are limited to 250 people and will be practicing all CDC guidelines for responsible social distancing.

Bee sure to watch the video on our website for more info about these options and check the website often for updates!

Buzz over here for more details and to register:
www.138women.com or 814/455-7364



USHERS' CORNER

Ushers are needed to assist with mass. If you are attending mass in person, please assist people with entering and exiting the church as well as being seated. Also, Ushers are needed to assist with cleaning the pews for the next mass. It only takes a few minutes but keeps the church clean and open. As always, thanks for your help.

Save the following dates:

February 17 - Ash Wednesday
February 18 - Virtual monthly meeting
March 18 - Monthly meeting
April 1 - Holy Thursday
April 2 - Good Friday
April 4 - Easter
April 15 - Monthly meeting and Nominations
May 20 - Monthly meeting and Voting
June 17 - Monthly meeting; Budget due
July 24 - Installation Dinner and Block Party

Your attendance and participation on these dates are vital to the success of our organization. Please make every effort to attend. Thank you.

Peace, Pete Sala



Child Protection and 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. To see what the diocese is doing to help maintain safe environments for children and youth visit www.eriercd.org/childprotection/

Scan this QR code with your cell phone, it will take you right to our Facebook page with information about the Parish and the link to the livestream Sunday Mass.



SCAN ME

Sunday, February 07, 2021**FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME Game on**

The odds for Super Bowl Sunday 2021 were available last February. Tickets for the game have been on sale for as long. But things don't always happen the way we plan them. Last year, when the Chiefs were pitted against the 49ers, no one imagined how the world would change between one Super Bowl and the next. Still, Jesus comes into our midst wherever we are, whatever our circumstances, and grasps us by the hand. We can't be sure of the game plan for the future. But we can trust that Jesus will be there for us.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Job 7:1-4, 6-7; 1 Corinthians 9:16-19, 22-23; Mark 1:29-39 (74).* "Simon's mother-in-law lay sick with a fever. . . . [Jesus] grasped her hand, and helped her up."

Monday, February 08, 2021**MEMORIAL OF JEROME EMILIANI, PRIEST****Share the love to feel the love**

Who hasn't felt all alone before? Perhaps let down or left by a loved one. Perhaps in such dire straits that you thought even God abandoned you. Jerome Emiliani is the saint for those low points. He found God in ultimate isolation—prison. Once free, he became a priest and devoted himself to the abandoned of 16th-century Venice—especially orphans and prostitutes. When you feel stricken with an orphan spirit, remember that you are a beloved child of a loving Creator who will never let you go. Show that same love to those who need you most.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Genesis 1:1-19; Mark 6:53-56 (329).* "They laid the sick in the marketplaces and begged him that they might touch only the tassel on his cloak."

Tuesday, February 09, 2021**Be the change**

Gregory XV became pope by "popular acclaim" on this day in 1621—interesting, because he changed the tradition soon after. Instead, Gregory made the case for the first secret ballot when electing a pope. He also did other remarkable things, considering his papacy lasted barely two years. He established the first missionary organization of the Vatican, the Congregation for the Propagation of the Faith. And he canonized these beloved saints: Ignatius of Loyola, Teresa of Avila, Francis Xavier, and Philip Neri. Is there a change you've been meaning to make in your own practice of the faith? Begin today.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Genesis 1:20—2:4a; Mark 7:1-13 (330).* "The Pharisees and scribes questioned him, 'Why do your disciples not follow the tradition?'"

Wednesday, February 10, 2021**MEMORIAL OF SCHOLASTICA, VIRGIN****God's assistance rains down**

There are few details of Saint Scholastica's early life, but we do know that this sister of Benedict of Nursia entered religious life and lived in a women's monastery a few miles from her brother's in Monte Cassino. Perhaps the most enduring story about Scholastica is one that pits her will against her brother's when she begs him to extend their yearly visit and spend the night in prayer and conversation. Benedict resists, not wishing to break his own rule with a night away from home. Determined, Scholastica asks God for assistance, and a torrential rainstorm ensues

that settles the matter in her favor—Benedict will spend the night. Never doubt that you are worthy to ask for God's help. Trust your heart to know what will draw you closer to God.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Genesis 2:4b-9, 15-17; Mark 7:14-23 (331).* "When you send forth your spirit, they are created, and you renew the face of the earth."

Thursday, February 11, 2021**MEMORIAL OF OUR LADY OF LOURDES****Turn to Mary**

Much of Jesus' ministry had to do with some form of healing, and today's memorial, Our Lady of Lourdes, recognizes Mary's 18 reported appearances in Lourdes, France, a place of pilgrimage known for healing powers. Millions of people a year travel to Lourdes in search of healing; many report spiritual peace and transformation, and a handful even report experiencing cures without medical explanation. Today is also World Day of the Sick. It's an ideal day to ask Mary to intercede on behalf of healing that we need—or that our friends and loved ones desire.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Genesis 2:18-25; Mark 7:24-30 (332).* "Soon a woman whose daughter had an unclean spirit heard about him. She came and fell at his feet."

Friday, February 12, 2021**Say their name**

This day, falling between World Day of the Sick and Valentine's Day, brings thoughts of how many are left alone after COVID deaths. Advertisers are pushing candy, cards, and flowery bouquets, but the intercultural church also counsels that we pay kind attention to those who are grieving. Practical actions are often most helpful: not only shoveling a driveway or baking some bread, but also reaching out and just listening to whatever is on the grieving person's heart. Sometimes all a grieving person wants is to name the beloved and talk about them again. Being a good listener is a welcome gift.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Genesis 3:1-8; Mark 7:31-37 (333).* "They were exceedingly astonished and they said, 'He has done all things well.'"

Saturday, February 13, 2021**OPTIONAL MEMORIAL OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN****MARY Saturdays belong to Mary**

For more than a thousand years, the Catholic Church has dedicated most Saturdays to the Blessed Virgin Mary. The reason for choosing Saturday above all other days has been lost to antiquity. But according to tradition, Saturday has been set aside to celebrate the maternal example of Mary and witness to her dedicated discipleship as a woman of God and a follower of Jesus. The weekly memorial serves as a reminder that she is continuously present and operative in the life of the church. Reflect on how the Blessed Virgin Mary has been present and active in your life.

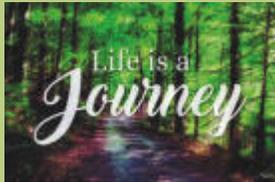
TODAY'S READINGS: *Genesis 3:9-24; Mark 8:1-10 (334).* "My heart is moved with pity for the crowd."



*Daily renewal for busy Catholics.
Invest just five minutes a day,
and your faith will deepen and grow
a day at a time.*

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF FEBRUARY 7, 2021

Sunday:	Jb 7:1-4, 6-7/Ps 147:1-2, 3-4, 5-6 [cf. 3a]/1 Cor 9:16-19, 22-23/Mk 1:29-39
Monday:	Gn 1:1-19/Ps 104:1-2a, 5-6, 10 and 12, 24 and 35c [31b]/Mk 6:53-56
Tuesday:	Gn 1:20—2:4a/Ps 8:4-5, 6-7, 8-9 [2ab]/Mk 7:1-13
Wednesday:	Gn 2:4b-9, 15-17/Ps 104:1-2a, 27-28, 29bc-30 [1a]/Mk 7:14-23
Thursday:	Gn 2:18-25/Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5 [cf. 1a]/Mk 7:24-30
Friday:	Gn 3:1-8/Ps 32:1-2, 5, 6, 7 [1a]/Mk 7:31-37
Saturday:	Gn 3:9-24/Ps 90:2, 3-4abc, 5-6, 12-13 [1]/Mk 8:1-10



GOSPEL MEDITATION - ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE

If I only knew then what I know now, how different life would be. This sentiment, expressed in myriad ways, is found on every human being's lips at one point or another. Life may have brought us to a vulnerable place where we see some of the poor choices we made and the effects they are having. Perhaps we fell into some destructive and dysfunctional relationships or behaviors and are finding how they held us captive. Our zeal and passion for life may have drifted away and we are waking up to the reasons apathy has taken hold. Life can be hard. In fact, some would describe their lives as a drudgery. They walk through each day with an anxious unsettledness, wondering when their restlessness will cease. There is a temptation to believe that what I see is all I will get. Mortality and hopelessness await the dawn. If I could only have known what would come in the future, I could have made better choices and avoided all of this misery!

Really? While we can certainly give into weakness, sin, impulsiveness, and idiosyncrasies that cause us to stumble over ourselves, life is really a journey. If we don't make the mistake of wallowing in the mire of self-pity and realize the new life God is calling us to, then there are thrills, adventures, surprises, and soul-searching graces we can surely miss. We are not tethered to our past nor are we bound to the ills life can bring upon us. We are never hopeless or helpless. The problem is that our myopic vision only allows us to see the misery and misfortune that is before us, not the potential that can come from choosing healthier and more life-giving options. Jesus came that we might have fullness of life. We need to learn how to reach for Jesus' hand and let him help us to our feet.

We need to allow God into our pain and heal our past. We have to wrestle with our histories, agonize and search and cry out for the Divine healing we need to restore our faith, hope, and love. Job could not see how his story would end or trust the guidance of the God who called him. We live in that same blindness and suffer from the same lack of confidence. Once we allow ourselves to be touched by God's healing power, we begin to see that all of the pieces of our lives are necessary parts of a greater whole. Along the way of our lives, God uses our omissions and failures to create new things and possibilities.

When doors close, others open and we can be amazed by the joyful and unexpected surprises we receive. Once we know the power of God's creative, healing, life-giving, forgiving, and dynamic presence, it is no wonder we want to put ourselves at the service of others and show them what life can be. ©LPi

EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP - RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS The Audacity of Holiness

Do you know a holy person? I'm not talking about piety — that's important, too, in its own way. But right now, I'm speaking of holiness. St. Therese of Lisieux called holiness “a disposition of the heart that makes us humble and little in the arms of God, aware of our weakness, and confident — in the most audacious way — in His Fatherly goodness.”

The holy person sees a storm on the horizon of life, and rather than give themselves over to fear and despair (natural and understandable reactions), regards the gathering winds as an opportunity to rely more fully on God. The holy person takes a bad situation and sanctifies it with charity and understanding that defies our fallen human nature.

Peter's mother-in-law was still in the throes of a fever when Jesus grasped her hand. It wasn't until she took his hand and allowed him to help her up that “the fever left her and she waited on them.” Before the fever could leave her, she had to commit to holiness — to put her trust in him in a most audacious way. She had to find it within herself to lift her weakened hand to grasp his — and as soon as she did, she was rewarded. Her bodily health restored, she gave thanks, and attended to his needs.

God's hand is always outstretched to us. Will we take it, even if the fever of sin and pride and worldly concerns rages in our souls? Will we muster the strength? Will we be audacious enough to have confidence in His Fatherly goodness?



SPIRITUAL COMMUNION PRAYER

My Jesus, I believe that you are in the Blessed Sacrament. I love you above all things, and I long for you in my soul. Since I cannot receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart, as though you have already come. I embrace you and unite myself entirely to you; never permit me to be separated from you. AMEN

\$\$\$\$\$ RAISE THE ROOF LOTTERY \$\$\$\$\$

01/26 #509...#510...#508 **NO WINNERS**
 01/27 #490 **NO WINNER**...#491 *Bill Naguszewski \$10...*
 #489 **NO WINNER**
 01/28 #161 **NO WINNER**...#162 *Vela Fulton \$10...*
 #160 **NO WINNER**
 01/29 #792...#793...#791 **NO WINNERS**
 01/30 #950...#951...#949 **NO WINNERS**
 01/31 #877...#878...#876 **NO WINNERS**

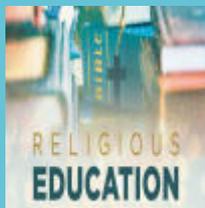
FEBRUARY TICKETS ARE NOW AVAILABLE
\$5 per ticket 84 chances to win this month

If you want tickets, call Diane in the Parish Office at 454-0171 or send an email dfisher@bserie.org and leave a message with your choice of lottery numbers and we will mail them to you. You can mail back your stubs and money or drop off at the office. We appreciate your support.

31 CLUB Pray for vocations

February 8 Richard Moore
 February 9 Carolyn Johnston
 February 10 Patty Palermo
 February 11 date available
 February 12 Mary Alice Haibach
 February 13 Mary Lou Schroeck
 February 14 date available

Members of the 31 Club agree to go to daily Mass and /or offer prayers on a particular day every month for an increase of vocations to the Church. One of the best ways to increase vocations is through prayers, and the greatest prayer we have is the holy sacrifice of the Mass. Please call the Parish Office if you want to be in the 31 Club and experience the satisfaction that comes from helping to fulfill a great need in the Church.



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

Classes have returned to in-person for all students. If your child is not yet attending or you have any questions or concerns, please contact Jenn Durney at jdurney@bserie.org

UPCOMING IMPORTANT MEETING FOR FIRST COMMUNION:
 Parent Meeting (via Zoom) Sunday, February 7th at 1pm

"KNIGHTS CORNER"



FORTY CANS FOR LENT
Together we can fight hunger!
I Can! You Can! We Can! The program is simple; Collect one can of food per day during the 40 days of Lent, which begins on Ash

Wednesday, and then one extra can per person on Easter Sunday. Drop off your cans at any time throughout the Season in a marked box in the School, Church, Cafeteria, or the Church Office. As you prepare for Easter by sacrificing during Lent, remember the 40 days and nights that Christ spent in the desert, without food or water, praying and preparing for his sacrifice on behalf of mankind. During this Season, we hope each person will donate one can of food each day if possible, but everything helps. We will use these items to help supply our parish food pantry, provide for school families (as needed) and to make emergency care packages for individuals and families.

Keep informed about what is going on in our parish

Text APP to 88202 to download our parish app to your cell phone. Select our parish after opening.

Bulletins are also posted online on our parish website: www.bsparisherie.org





The baby's crying, the dog is whining, and you need to leave for work in five minutes. Finding time for prayer can seem impossible. Amid the busyness of family life, how can one respond to God's ongoing invitation to speak with and listen to Him? Here are ten pointers to help you do just that.

1. Pray as you can, not as you can't. God calls most Christians to an active life in the world, with family, work and community responsibilities. Such a call, while holy, does not usually allow for long periods of prayer and reflection. Lay people can become discouraged when they try to pray like a cloistered contemplative. Be realistic about what's possible.

2. Take ten — or twenty. If a half hour for prayer isn't possible, how about ten minutes, or twenty? Choose a good time of day and stick with it. Designate a special site for prayer so that spot become holy. Spouses can help by minding children during respective quiet times.

3. Pray as a family. Build upon rituals such as grace before meals. In addition to the usual "Bless us, O Lord..." encourage family members to offer thanks for the blessings of the day, as well as prayers for those in need. Couples can deepen their spiritual relationship by taking a few minutes, perhaps before bedtime, to commend to God the joys and sorrows of the day.

4. Decorate your domestic church. When we enter our parish church, the statues and pictures focus our minds on Jesus, Mary and the saints. We can create an atmosphere for prayer in our home- the domestic church- by displaying a crucifix, icons, the Bible and other holy objects. Take the children to a religious goods store and let them choose a picture or statue for their rooms.

5. Short prayers count, too. When you're stopped at a long light or put on hold, consider it as God's invitation to turn your heart and mind to him, if only for a few seconds.

6. Find God at work. Connecting with God in the workplace takes effort. Try to cultivate a few simple habits. For example, offer the day to God as you turn on your computer, or pray for the person you're about to call or wait upon.

7. Jump start your prayer life. Sooner or later almost everyone experiences dryness in prayer. God seems far away and prayer becomes a burden. Praying with Scripture, perhaps the [daily Mass readings](#), can help us focus. So, too, can an inspirational book, especially one of the spiritual classics. A good choice is St. Francis de Sales' Introduction to the Devout Life, written specifically for lay people who are striving for holiness.

8. Ask your Mother for help. The Blessed Virgin Mary, our spiritual mother, understands our needs and offers profound comfort. One family, gathered around the bedside of their dying husband and father, found peace and healing through the recitation of the rosary. The rosary is ideal for the family since children can be taught the simple prayers at an early age. Check out instructions on [how to pray the rosary](#).

9. Read a good story. Children and adults alike enjoy an inspiring story, and few stories are more compelling than those of the saints. Whether it's the little way of Therese of Lisieux or the heroism of Maximilian Kolbe, their stories offer something for everyone. Consider the particular virtue that a saint demonstrates and pray for help to emulate it. Perhaps it's the humility of St. Francis of Assisi, the patience of St. Monica, or the courageous witness of St. Thomas More.

10. Walk with a spiritual friend. Prayer can lead to new thoughts and questions. Who better to share them with than a spiritual friend? A friend can help us to work through the concerns that inevitably arise in prayer. Good friends will hold each other accountable for their prayer life, making sure that prayer has not been neglected in the busyness of life. For married couples a spouse is often this spiritual friend, but God will also put wise and holy people in our path when we need them. They can be the answer to prayer.

For more information and resources, visit foryourmarriage.org

FOR YOUR
MARRIAGE



@foryourmarriage



*May God ... keep you of one heart in
love ... that the peace of Christ may dwell
in you and abide always in your home.*

-Order of Celebrating Matrimony, 2nd edition

PARISH FAMILY

Please pray for those in our Parish Family who are hospitalized, ill, homebound and in nursing facilities, as well as those who care for them.

Pray for all those suffering from COVID-19, the healthcare workers who are caring for them and all the service providers who are working everyday.

Pray for all members of the military.

Pray for those who have suffered the experience of abuse, may they find through Christ's presence, deep healing and peace.

PRAY FOR PEACE IN OUR COUNTRY AND FOR GOD'S PROTECTION AND GUIDANCE OVER OUR COUNTRY & NEW PRESIDENT

*Baptized into the Christian Community through the waters of Baptism:
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01/31/2021

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Loose:	\$ 214.00	
Online:	\$ 1,693.00	68 [250]
Christmas:	\$ 10.00	
Solemnity of Mary:	\$ 45.00	
Ash Wednesday:	\$ 50.00	
Easter Flowers:	\$ 20.00	
Youth Offering:	\$ 22.00	3 [400]
Total:	\$ 7,534.00	

2020 CATHOLIC SERVICES APPEAL

Pledged to Date:	\$ 70,737.00	[227]
Paid To Date:	\$ 69,534.00	
Assessment:	\$ 65,283.00	
Unpaid Balance:	\$ 1,203.00	



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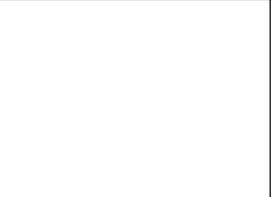
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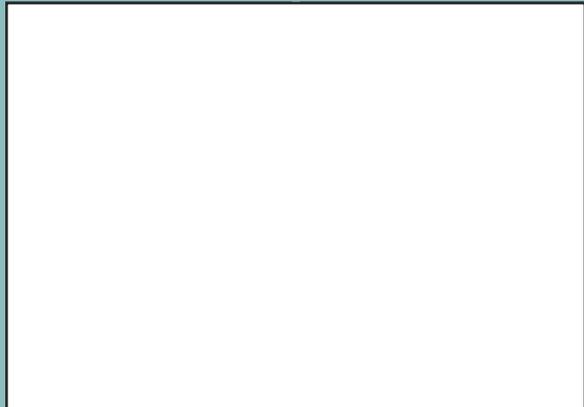
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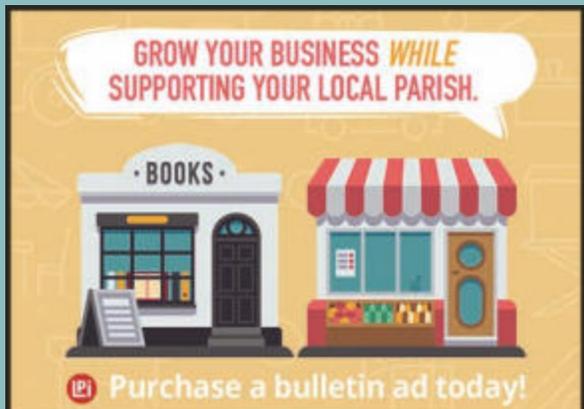
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