

At Our Best We often hear the terms “on message” and “on task” these days. This is another way of talking about focus. Strong leaders urge us toward objectives deemed worthy of our time and effort. They marshal our energy toward those great, good objectives. People of vision so engaged do their best work. Everything else is subordinated to the great work. In times like these, we are at our best.

In the opening prayer for this Sunday, we address God as the Father of all that is good. We ask to remain faithful in service. We voice our awareness that to serve God is our lasting joy. That joy begins now and doesn't end. It begins with engagement in the world, the place where God is to be discovered and served.

1. What do you think the master did with the talents the servants gave back to him?
2. How engaged are you in the prayer and work of the parish community?
3. If your parish community ceased to exist, would it be missed? How or why?

PARISH NEWS: SJP

Dear Friends: Schedule Mass for your loved ones for 2018 by either stopping at the convent between 9am – 12pm or via email at stjoe@usachoice.net. Before scheduling, please consider getting together with family members to schedule one from all of you. We have few Masses and many families. Thank you!

Religious Education: Class on 11-19-2017 and 12-3-2017

Choir: Would you like to sing in one of the choirs this Christmas? Men, women and teens are welcome and appreciated. If you would like to sing this season, please take a practice schedule from the vestibule of the church or from the choir loft. The choirs sing choral music before the Christmas Masses and usually one choral carol during Mass. There are separate rehearsal schedules for each of the Masses, and all begin at 6:30 pm in the church. Please be sure to take one for the Mass you might plan to attend.

- Christmas Eve Vigil Mass at 5:00pm
- Christmas Eve Mass Night at 10:00

Holidays: Please consider volunteering to be an Usher, Server, Eucharistic Minister or Lector.

If you can volunteer for any of the following Masses, please call the Rectory at (814)226-7288 or email stjoe@usachoice.net.

Thursday, November 23rd, 8:30am

Friday, December 8th, 9am

Sunday, December 24th, 5:00pm

Sunday, December 24th, 10:00pm

Monday December 25th, 9:00am

This time of the year is very busy for Father and it would be a great help to him knowing you are there. Thank you in advance for your kindness.

Advent Penance Celebration:

December 3rd, 3:00pm – St. Stephen - Oil City

December 6th, 7:00pm – St. Charles – New Bethlehem

December 10th, 3:00pm – St. Mary – Crown

December 12th, 7:00pm – St. Michael & St. Joseph in Fryburg

December 13th, 7:00pm – Immaculate Conception – Clarion

December 15th, 11:00am – Immaculate Conception (Children) – Clarion

December 17th, 4:00pm – ST. Patrick - Franklin

PARISH NEWS: SMP

Northern Clarion County Giving Tree Project: The Giving Trees will be up between 11/16 and 11/22. Each tag will have gender, age, and needed items. Please do not gift wrap. You may provide the wrap or gift bags. Each child will receive 3 gifts. If you need a little help with Christmas this year and have a child or children under the age of 15, please call 814-744-9203.

Liturgical Ministers: Sacristan, Alter Server, Eucharistic Ministers, Usher, Rosary Leaders... We will be doing the schedule for January, February and March, if anyone would like to change or be added to the schedule please call St. Michael Church office.

Advent /Christmas Faith Sharing Sessions: Join our faith sharing group with booklets entitled: Bridges to Contemplative Living with Thomas Merton. Advent and Christmas Session held at Our Lady Help of Christians Social Center, Oil City, 10:30 AM – Noon on Tuesday, 12/5, 12/12, 12/19 and 1/2. Sister Marian and Sister Tina (Catholic Rural Ministry)

St. Michael's Book of The Dead is located at the St. Joseph altar for anyone wishing to add a loved-ones name to the book.

A Family Perspective The bridesmaids in today's gospel were considered 'foolish' because they let their lamps go out. Don't be foolish. Pay attention to the small acts necessary to keep the flame alive in all your relationships.

St. Michael Rosary Society will be having their Christmas Party on Dec. 4th. We will be having a meeting at 5:30 and eating at 6p.m. Please bring a gift. Reservations can be made by calling Marie Bauer at 354-2370. Deadline is Nov. 27th.



Liturgy Schedule November 25th & November 26th

4:00 p.m.

Sacristan: Theresa Seitz
Altar Servers: Jamie Bauer
Euch Min: Theresa Seitz, Darla Smerkar, Bernice Strauser
Lector: Bill Aaron
Ushers: Bill Barklow, John Weaver, Jr., Andrew Gilara, Michael Beichner
Rosary: Theresa Seitz

6:00 p.m.

Altar Server: Kayla & Sara Aaron
Euch Min: Roger & Mary Jane Steiner, Jeff Schwabenbauer
Lector: Mary Jane Steiner
Ushers: Norm Wolbert, Jim Harvey, Ed Carroll, Al Lander

7:30 a.m.

Altar Servers: Maddie Homan
Euch Min: Lori Callihan, Janice Johnson, Pete Judy
Lector: Morgan Jones
Ushers: Nick & Ben Ochs, Rick Best, Ethan Skrzypek

10:00 a.m.

Sacristan: Judy Weirich
Altar Server: Owen Kerle, Aubree Kerle
Euch Min: Deb Desmond, Judy Weirich, Jane Schmader
Lector: Jody Guth
Ushers: Matt Gilara, Daniel Brooker, Todd & Tyler Beichner
Rosary: William Ditz
R.S. Cleaner: Jackie Lewis

Mass Schedule November 20th – November 26th

Monday, November 20th

No Early Mass

12:00 p.m. - (SMP) Living & Deceased Members of St. Michael Rosary Society as requested

Tuesday, November 21st

No Early Mass

12:00 p.m. - (SMP) Ed & Florence Bauer by Norb & Marie

Wednesday, November 22nd

No Early Mass

12:00 p.m. - (SMP) Jim Elliott by Dan & Mary Ann

Thursday, November 23rd Thanksgiving

8:30 a.m. - (SJP) Edward & Adellade Schill by Jim & Mary Kay

12:00 p.m. - (SMP) Madeline Ditz by Dorothy & Ed Elliott

Friday, November 24th

No Early Mass

12:00 p.m. - (SMP) Henry & Adeline Karg by the Family

Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe

Saturday, November 25th

Confession at St. Michael 3 p.m.

4:00 p.m. - (SMP) Bernard J. Griebel Sr. by the Family

6:00 p.m. - (SJP) Parish Family

Confession at St. Joseph 7 p.m.

Sunday, November 26th

7:30 a.m. - (SJP) Connie, Hank, & Steve Ochs, Mike Carroll & Ed Schmader by Connico

10:00 a.m. - (SMP) James Schwabenbauer by Lida & Family

Collection Counters November 25th & 26th

SJP: Mike O'Neil, Rita Ochs, Nancy Ochs
SMP: Mary Dechant, Andrew Gilara, Nicholas Banner

THE SANCTUARY CANDLE burning in memory of

SJP: Denny Greenawalt by Family
SMP: Susan Obenrader by Susanna & Ted Kurtzhals

PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED FOR:

Parish Family, All Special Intentions

Service People on Active Duty

Brendan & Edward George, Nelson Ochs, Punkie Griebel, Jim Pfaff,
Jake Siegel, Melissa Johnson
All victims of disasters and violence

Please call the Rectory or drop a note in collection basket if you would like to have someone added to the Prayer list.

School News:

No school November 23rd – November 28th. HAPPY THANKSGIVING

No Mass Tuesday, November 21st

PARISH STEWARDSHIP

**Special Thanks to all who sacrifice to support St. Joseph's
November 12th**

Sunday Collection \$2,607

Loose Collection \$1,516

**Special Thanks to all who sacrifice to support St. Michael's
November 12th**

Sunday Collection \$3,388

Loose Collection \$607.01

CSA: St. Joseph assessment to Diocese: \$32,706

Parishioners Pledged: \$51,517

Parishioners Paid to Date: \$43,142

Balance Due to Diocese of Erie: \$0

Monies towards Seal Coat: \$15,234

CSA: St. Michael's assessment to Diocese: \$35,703

Parishioners Pledged: \$51,517

Parishioners Paid to Date: \$43,142

Balance Due to Diocese of Erie: \$0

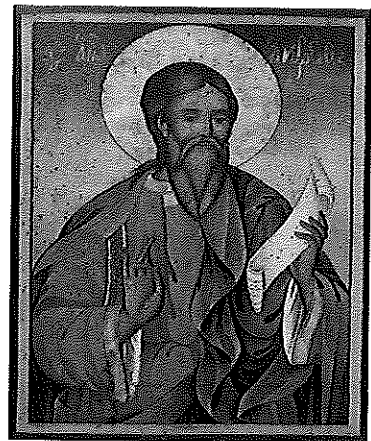
Monies towards \$ 71,406 Goal: \$7,439

Saint Andrew Christmas Anticipation Novena

We Catholics know a novena is a prayer form that spans nine days. However, the word novena is also used to describe a short prayer, a mantra, repeated over any span of days. Such is the St. Andrew Christmas Anticipation Novena, often referred to as simply the **Christmas Novena**. This short novena is prayed **15 times, every day**, from the Feast of St. Andrew, November 30th, until midnight of December 24th. Although the novena begins on St. Andrew's feast, the prayer is directed to God. The person saying the prayer places himself at Bethlehem on the special night of our Savior's earthly arrival. It focuses on the great miracle of Christ's birth and asks God to grant a personal request in honor of Jesus' incarnation.

This prayer is ideal for focusing busy Catholics on the true meaning of Christmas. The prayer can be recited five times, at different intervals of the day. It can be woven easily into Advent Wreath devotions in your home or serve as an additional meal-time prayer. It is easily memorized and can be "carried" throughout the Advent Season. Participating in this tradition will prepare your heart for Christmas, an essential goal for everyone. (This practice is quite old. It has an imprimatur from Archbishop Michael Augustine of New York City, from the Pontificate of Pope Leo the XIII, February 6, 1897)! Perhaps it will become part of your family's tradition this Christmas and for those of the future?

Hail and blessed be
the hour and moment
in which the Son of God
was born of the
Most Pure Virgin Mary
at midnight, in Bethlehem, in piercing cold.
In that hour
vouchsafe O my God,
to hear my prayers,
and grant my desires,
through the merits of
Our Savior, Jesus Christ,
And His Blessed Mother.
Amen



DIOCESE OF ERIE

WHAT IS EXPECTED OF A PRACTICING CATHOLIC?

Want to be a sponsor or get married?

A practicing Catholic is a person who is in good standing with the Church. The following list provides essential components of the practice of the faith:

- He/she participates in the sacraments of the Church
 - is fully initiated, i.e. has been baptized, confirmed and admitted to Holy Communion;
 - participates in Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation;
 - celebrates the Sacrament of Penance as needed, but not infrequently.
- He/she is a registered member of a Catholic parish and supports the parish with time, talent and treasure, according to his/her ability.
- If married, he/she is in accord with the laws of the Church, and is committed to raising children in the practice of the faith;
- If not married, he/she is living a life in conformity with single state;
- He/she is in agreement with and willing to impart the teachings of the Catholic Church as taught by the Church's magisterium;
- He/she will lead by example, encourage students to learn and practice the faith by word and example.
- He/she lives a life free of scandal, and is not bound by any ecclesiastical penalty.

Turkey Bingo Win a TURKEY! November 20th at 6PM at Immaculate Conception Meisinger Center.

Bulletin Information From now through the New Year the weekly deadline for the Bulletin has been pushed up. Please call (814) 226-7822 or email stjoe@usachoice.net promptly with any information you would like to add to ensure it makes it into the proper Bulletin. Happy Holidays!

Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe - Solemnity Sunday, November 26, 2017

Lec. 160

Ezekiel 34:11-12, 15-17

1 Corinthians 15:20-26, 28

Matthew 25:31-46

Liturgy of the Word:

The first reading reminds us that God looks after his flock with tenderness – the lost are brought back, the injured are bound and the sick are healed. The second reading describes the kingship of Jesus as being the one who reigns over all. Today's Gospel parable exhorts us to care for those who are in need so that we might be judged worthy of eternal life.

AROUND THE DIOCESE

Hunter Breakfast: St. Mary/St. Ann Parish will host their Annual Hunter Breakfast on Sunday, Nov. 26, 2017 at St. Mary – Stutz Hall in Crown. Breakfast will be served from 7:00am – Noon. Menu includes scrambled eggs, pancakes, sausage patties, home fries, sausage gravy, biscuits, cinnamon rolls, juice, and coffee. Cost is adults \$9:00, children 6yrs. to 12 yrs. \$4.00, PK free. There is also a Quilt Raffle, 50/50, Chinese Auction, and the Knights of Columbus are sponsoring Gun and Knife Raffle Tickets. Please join for a delicious breakfast!

SPONSOR OF THE WEEK

Faller Funeral Home, INC.