FROM THE PASTOR’S DESK

Several months ago I was counseling a State Trooper about to retire. In the course of the conversation he mentioned a desire to go back to church. Even though he was raised Catholic, he wasn’t sure going back to a Catholic church was the right thing for him. I told him simply “Don’t settle for an echo chamber.” What did I mean by that? I was telling him not to go to a church that only said things he wanted to hear, but to find one that challenged him to grow.

We live in a society that gravitates toward the echo chamber, causing a polarization not only in our society, but also in our Church. Polarization means that we move away from the middle toward the extremes holding that our opinion is more important that the person we may be talking with. Think about politics. At times the political parties barely seem civil toward the other. That’s what an echo chamber does. It cuts off any challenge to our opinion by surrounding ourselves with only like-minded thinkers. But the echo chamber also cuts off growth.

Lent is a great time of the year to figure out if we are living in an echo chamber. It’s easy enough. We just need to watch our reaction to an opinion we might disagree with. Do we continue to appreciate the person we are talking with, or do we write them off?

Almsgiving, prayer, and fasting cut across all sides of the aisle to draw us closer to Jesus. After all Jesus reminds us in St. Matthew’s Gospel that God rains on the just and the unjust. God cares for each of us regardless of our opinion because we are so much more than an opinion. Hopefully, this Lent we’ll not only realize that about ourselves, but about all those we encounter.

Let’s move out of the echo chamber and into the Presence of Christ.

St. Rick

PARISH NEWS

STATIONS OF THE CROSS THROUGH LENT We have Stations of the Cross on Fridays at 6:30pm and School stations on Tuesdays at 12:45pm.

PAINT IT FORWARD FUNDRAISER PAINT PARTY to help raise money for the RCIA Candidates Service Project “Make a Dream Come True!” It will take place on Wednesday, March 8 from 6-8pm in Meyer Hall/$40.00 registration fee payable to St. Joseph Church. To register, call Kathy Amsdell at 723-2090 Ext. 14 or email her at kamsdell@sjcswarren.org. There are only a few seats left! Each participant will be led step by step by an artist to paint a picture with a Lenten theme. All supplies will be provided. You will leave with your beautiful painting. All proceeds will go toward the RCIA Candidates Service Project of sending a deserving family to a Cleveland Cavalier basketball game, providing the bus trip, pre-game dinner, t-shirts, and an “on court high five players greeting.” If you do not want to participate in the painting evening, donations will gladly be accepted. Just drop them off at the church office or put them in the collection basket clearly marked “Paint it Forward.” Thank you.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS ST. PATRICK’S DAY CELEBRATION On Saturday March 18th, the K of C will be celebrating St. Patrick’s Day at the clubhouse in North Warren. The celebration will feature a FREE food buffet and soft drinks and is open to ALL Warren, Youngsville, and Sheffield Council members as well as any guests they would like to bring. Any prospective K of C members are welcome to come too! Happy hour will begin at 6:00pm with dinner starting at 7:00pm. Please join us for a 2017 celebration of St. Patrick’s Day with food, fellowship and college basketball’s March Madness on the big screen. RSVP to Ralph Gallo at 723-4733.

Eucharistic Adoration during Lent “Breathing” was the comment of 4th grader Sophie Walker after a session of Eucharistic Adoration during Catholic Schools Week. Consider making this wondrous Sacrament an essential part of your Lent. Hours for Lent: 8am-8:15pm. Night prayer and Benediction begin at 8:15. To sign up for a holy hour contact Arlene 723-1726 or Becky 726-2849 or just drop in whenever convenient.

40 CANS FOR 40 DAYS OF LENT We will have a basket by the parish office for you to put one can of nonperishable food items for each day of Lent. All donated foods will be used at the Youngsville Food Pantry. Matthew 25:40 “Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me.”

PIEROGI SALE St. John Church in Tidioute will be selling frozen pierogi as a fundraiser during Lent this year; every Saturday from March 4th through April 8th from 1pm to 4pm in the church’s center. We will be making potato & cheese and potato & sauerkraut pierogi. Pre-order each week by Thursday to guarantee availability. Walk-ins are welcome. Call Fran O’ Hosky 484-7157 to pre-order. Cost is $9/dozen or $6/half dozen.

2232 MEN’S CONFERENCE The 4th Annual 2232 Men’s Conference will be on Saturday, March 25th at the Erie Warner Theatre, 811 State Street, Erie. Registration starts at 8am. The conference starts at 9am and lasts until 3:30pm. Cost is $40 per person, but group rates are available. Please contact Troy McFate, 563-7339 if you are interested in attending.

SAINT JOSEPH TABLE Sunday, March 19th is the Feast of Saint Joseph. We will have a 5:00pm Mass followed by a tureen dinner at 6:30pm. (There will be no 10:30am Mass) The meat, beverages and table service will be provided, each family is asked to bring a dish to share. All donations to the Saint Joseph Table will benefit the Soup Kitchen. For reservations call the Church office at 723-2090 or stop in.

GIRL SCOUT COOKIES The Girl Scouts will be selling cookies after 10:30am Mass next weekend, March 12th in the front vestibule. Please help support these young women.

Helping Hands

During March, we are asking you to help fill the shelves at the Salvation Army with laundry soap, dish detergent, Clorox wipes, paper towels, and toilet paper. Baskets to put your donations can be found at the exits of the Church.

GIRL SCOUT COOKIES

Prayer Chain If you have prayer intentions, please call Charmell Feaster at 726-0455. Also if you would like to know more about this ministry and be a part of praying for others, give Charmell a call today!
Sunday, 3/5—First Sunday of Lent
8:45am Mass at St. Luke in Youngville
10:30am Living & Deceased Parishioners of Saint Joseph
   (Adult Choir)

Monday, 3/6 - Lenten Weekday
12:00pm Mass at St. Luke in Youngville

Tuesday, 3/7 - Lenten Weekday
12:05pm Jim Morrison by Gretchen Morrison

Wednesday, 3/8 - Lenten Weekday
9:05am Alex Troyan by Rose & Family—School Mass
2:00pm Mass at the Rouse Home

Thursday, 3/9 - Lenten Weekday
12:05pm James & Josephine Puleo by Family

Friday, 3/10 - Lenten Weekday
8:00am Florence Scalise by Mike & Lisa Lewis

Saturday, 3/11 - Lenten Weekday
8:00am Louis Rizzardi by Mike & Lisa Lewis
5:30pm Ruth & Joseph Ack's by Estate
   (Adult Choir)

Sunday, 3/12 - Second Sunday of Lent
8:45am Mass at St. Luke in Youngville
10:30am Living & Deceased Parishioners of Saint Joseph
   (Youth Mass)

In your charity, please pray for the soul of Russell Grosch, father of Gail and Jennifer Grosch who passed away recently. We extend our sympathy to his family, and ask God's love and strength to bring them peace and consolation.

Vocations Icon
We would like to thank the David Wortman & Family for taking the Vocations Icon this week and praying for an increase in vocations here at St. Joseph Catholic Church.

Saint Joseph Catholic School
If you or your children want to send your/their child/ren to St. Joseph Catholic School, please call the school at 814-723-2030. We have open enrollment. There are numerous grants and scholarships available. Call the school today.

Reminder that Pre-School Roundup is March 10th.

Mass Intentions for the Week

Saint Joseph Catholic Church                             600 Pennsylvania Avenue, West - Warren, PA

Weekly Donations - February 26: $5,962
CSA Pledged: $125,278; Paid to date: $122,946
Thank you for your continued generosity!

Reading for the Week

Sunday, March 5
9:00am K-9 Faith Formation (School)
10-11 Confirmation (School)
10:30am RCIA Rite of Sending at Mass (Church)
11:00am-5:00pm Pickleball Tournament (Gym)
11:30am Cherub Rehearsal (Church)
1:00pm Sonrise Rehearsal (Church)
3:00pm The Gospel of John (Meyer Hall)
7:00pm MS CCY (Youth Room)

Tuesday, March 7
12:45pm School Stations of the Cross (Church)
4:30pm Soup Kitchen (Cafeteria)

Wednesday, March 8
9:05am School Mass (Church)
10:30am Faith Share (Meyer Hall)
2:00pm Mass at the Rouse Home (Youngsville)
6:00pm RCIA (Meyer Hall)
7:00pm Choir (Church)

Thursday, March 9
8:00am Adoration (Mother’s Chapel)
6:00pm Daisy Scouts (Meyer Hall)
8:15pm Night Prayer & Benediction (Mother’s Chapel)

Friday, March 10
9:00am Pre-K Round Up (School)
5:00pm K of C Fish Fry in Sheffield (St. Paul Center)
6:30pm Stations of the Cross (Church)

Saturday, March 11
4:30pm Reconciliation (Church)

Sunday, March 12
9:00am K-9 Faith Formation (School)
2nd Grade Retreat (School)
9:30am Sonrise Rehearsal (Church)
10:00am Cherub Rehearsal (Church)
3:00pm The Gospel of John (Meyer Hall)

Saint Joseph Catholic School

Saint Joseph Catholic School
600 Pennsylvania Avenue, West - Warren, PA

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Bridges Adult Day Service
905 Fourth Avenue, Warren
726-1116 / Rouse.org
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