

Welcome to our Parish

Sacred Heart of Jesus Church and
Saint Joseph/Bread of Life Community
St. Paul Church (mission)

February 2, 2025
Third Sunday in Ordinary Time



Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life.

John 3:36

SACRED HEART OF JESUS

816 West 26th St, Erie, PA 16508

ST. JOSEPH BREAD OF LIFE

147 West 24th St, Erie, PA 16502

ST. PAUL CHURCH (Mission)

1617 Walnut St, Erie, PA 16502

OFFICE HOURS: Mon-Fri, 8-4

at St. Joseph Bread of Life

Phone: 814-452-2982

SUNDAY HOURS:

9:45-11:00 am

at Sacred Heart

WEEKEND MASSES:

Saturday 4:00 pm @ St. Paul

Sunday 8:45 am @ Sacred Heart

10:45 am @ St. Joseph BOL

WEEKDAY MASSES:

at St. Joseph Bread of Life

Monday & Tuesday at 7:00 am

Wednesday at 6:00 pm

Thursday & Friday at 7:00 am

CONFESSIONS:

Saturdays

1 pm – 2:00 pm @ Sacred Heart

3:15 pm – 3:45 pm @ St. Paul and

Wednesdays, 4:45 – 5:45 pm @ St. Joseph

CONTACT US:

PASTORAL STAFF

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+
February 2, 2025
Feast of the Presentation

**To my Family of Sacred Heart (St. Paul) and St. Joseph/BOL Parishes,
MOVING FORWARD TOGETHER:**

Last week, I wrote about the challenging environment that our parish family finds itself in, and I wrote about the responsibilities that you and I have in addressing our challenges. This week, please allow me to identify some of the thinking that informs my pastoral decisions. I will also touch upon some of our next steps forward.

Mission Focused: It is said that rather than having a mission, the Church is a mission. Christ clearly identified our mission with his final words on earth: “Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age (Mt 28:19-20).” Everything we do at Sacred Heart, St. Joseph Bread of Life Community and St. Paul absolutely must align with that mission. We are a church – Christ’s Church. We are not a social service organization, an NGO or a support group. There are times when our discipleship will involve such things as advocacy, fundraising or partnering with secular institutions, but Christ himself is our pearl of great price. He is what we are offering to the world. Consider the Mother Teresa’s Missionaries of Charity in Calcutta. Although they worked tirelessly for the “poorest of the poor,” the saint used to remind her sisters that they were disciples of Christ, not social workers. That is a good reminder for you and me, as well.

An Apostolic Vision: Because we live in a culture that does not support or uphold the Christian belief system, it is necessary that we be radically apostolic in both vision and action. This means being intentional in proclaiming the Gospel message and in seeking to evangelize individuals and the culture. This means purposefully inviting people to Mass and parish activities. This means courageously offering to pray for and with people. This means being confident in our Catholicism and able to express the beauty of Catholic teaching. This means vulnerably sharing our own faith stories as a means of witnessing to the Gospel. For parishes and individuals alike, it also means letting go of those events, traditions or initiatives that are no longer bearing fruit, or that have run their course. This requires honesty in assessing our motives and goals. Many things that once worked simply do not work any longer. Doing something solely because - “We’ve always done it this way” - is a recipe for frustration, mediocrity and failure.

Borrowed and Blue: We have a full and exciting year ahead. There are some wonderful, things happening, such as the Lenten Parish Mission, Vacation Bible School, and our combined parish “Great Mass.” Conversely, some things are being transformed or ended. For example: (1) The Italian Festival will continue at St. Paul, but under the leadership of a newly formed non-profit organization (which aims to rejuvenate the neighborhood); (2) Oktoberfest at St. Joseph is being discontinued; (3) the St. Anthony Novena at St. Paul is being discontinued; and (4) we are choosing to primarily use contemporary music at the 10:45 am Mass. I understand that you may be disappointed with one of these changes or another. Even if you disagree, though, I ask you to offer your support for the greater good. Grumbling and complaining will weaken our entire family. As we move forward together, let’s also do things together. Stations of the Cross during Lent will be celebrated at Sacred Heart for our entire combined parish community. The Feast Days of our three churches will be celebrated with vigor, and I hope you participate in each. The day may come when one or two or all three of our churches will close their doors, but we are not at that moment! Rather than wringing our hands over what someday may be, let’s instead devote our energy to making Sacred Heart, St. Joseph Bread of Life Community and St. Paul the most amazing parishes imaginable! That which is new can be that which is good. Even very good! Our Lord himself says: “Behold, I make all things new (Rev 21:5).” My prayer is that the Lord renews me, renews you, renews our parish family, renews his Church, and renews the entire created world. Thank you for being with us in this all! Amen? Amen!

Sacred Heart of Jesus – Have mercy on us!

Mary, Mother of God – Pray for us!

Our Lady of Guadalupe – Pray for us!

St. Joseph – Pray for us!

St. Paul – Pray for us!

Fr. Steve

Mass Intentions

Monday, February 3 / 7:00 am, St. Joseph
Saint Blaise

+Debbie Scimanda (Bill & Ruthanne Steger)

Tuesday, February 4 / 7:00 am, St. Joseph
Weekday

+Francesco Scavella (Domenica Huston)

Wednesday, February 5 / 6:00 pm, St. Joseph
Saint Agatha

+Thomas Glover Jr (Jay & Earl Mittelmeier)

Thursday, February 6 / 7:00 am, St. Joseph
Saint Paul Miki

+Ron Snippert (Rob & Gina Lintelman)
+Lester Amendola (Dan & Dawn Schaaf)

Friday, February 7 / 7:00 am, St. Joseph
Weekday

+Robert DeMarco (Stephan DiTullio)

Saturday, February 8 / 4:00 pm at St. Paul
Saints Jerome & Josephine

+Mr & Mrs Lucio and Delores Zero (David Zero)

Sunday, February 9 / 8:45 am Sacred Heart
Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

+Emidio Melaragno (Maria Melaragno & Family)

Sunday, February 9 / 10:45 am St Joseph BOL

+John Umpleby (Carolyn Welther)

+Living & Deceased Members of the Parishes



This week the Church Sanctuary Candle will burn in memory of:

(SJ) Ron Snippert from Robin Snyder & Pam Dinger

Adoration Chapel:
Joe Garofalo from Pat Marshall

Please Pray For the Following:

Please keep the following requests in your conversations with God:

Healing—Colleen, Mary, Jess, Our Nation

Safety/Kindness/non-separation—Immigrant Families

Eternal Rest—Mary

Wisdom—Hayley, Matt

Deceased Members of the Parishes

God Hears Our Prayers



Perpetual Adoration

We are always in need of Committed Adorers in our Adoration Chapel at St Joseph BOL. Please sign up for an hour with Jesus! Call or text Geoff & Amber Dietz at 814-403-3921 to sign up .

The following **60+** hours are in need of another committed adorer.

Sunday: 12 AM, 1 AM, 2 AM, 3 AM, 4 AM, 6 AM, 8 AM, 11 AM, 2 PM, 3 PM, 4 PM, 5 PM, 6 PM, 11 PM

Monday: 12 AM, 1 AM, 2 AM, **3 AM**, 9 AM, 12 PM, 1 PM, 4 PM, 6 PM, 8 PM, 9 PM, 11 PM

Tuesday: 2 AM(X2), 3 AM, 4 AM, 10 AM, 1 PM, 3 PM, 11 PM

Wednesday: 12 AM, 1 AM, 2 AM, 3 AM, 6 AM

Thursday: 1 AM, 2 AM, 12 PM, 2 PM, 11 PM

Friday: 1 AM, 2 AM, 4 PM, 6 PM, 7 PM, 11 PM

Saturday: 12 AM, 1 AM, 2 AM, 3 AM, 4 AM, 2 PM, 3 PM, 5 PM, 6 PM, 9 PM, 10 PM, 11 PM

Please commit to 1 hour for Jesus!



Dear Extraordinary Ministers, Altar Servers & Lectors:

Please check in on the schedule in the vestibule of church when you arrive. It helps our sacristans know that you are here for your scheduled Sunday.

Thank you!



Gift Bearers Needed

Now that all three churches are bringing the gifts of Bread and Wine to the altar during Mass, we need volunteers to help with this part of the liturgy. We have a schedule in the vestibule to sign up for any available Sundays, or ask an usher for help.

Thank you!



**ST. JOSEPH BREAD OF LIFE
OFFERINGS**

January 19, 2025

OFFERTORY— \$ 2,735.00
CSA— \$ 1,075.00

OFFERTORY ONLINE— \$ 1,863.00
CSA ONLINE— \$ 800.00

TOTAL— \$ 6,473.00

WEEKLY EXPENSES — \$ 9,197.00

YOU CAN GIVE ONLINE AT :
easytithes.com



Sacred Heart / St. Paul Offerings

January 19, 2025

Offertory: \$ 5,315.00

Weekly Expenses \$ 7,498.00

Please make your offertory and CSA checks payable to Sacred Heart Church.

Bishop Persico has asked us to share the following statistics with you.

Diocese of Erie General Statistics
(As of January 13, 2025*)

	2024	2025
Number of Active Diocesan Priests	93**	87**
Number of Retired Diocesan Priests	33**	37**
Number of Parishes.....	83	76
Number of Permanent Deacons	63	61
Number of Erie Seminarians in Propaedeutic Year	0	2
Number of Erie Seminarians at St. Mark Seminary	5	3
Number of Erie Seminarians in Major Seminary	3	3
Number of Women Religious	179	165
Number of Catholic Schools (excluding universities)	29	28
Number of Students in Catholic Schools (K-12)	4,844	4585
Number of Faith Formation Students	4,615***	4221***
Number of Infant/Child Baptisms (up to 7 years)	721***	707***
Number of Adult Baptisms (7 years and older)	70***	146***
Number Received into Full Communion	51***	96***
Number of Funerals.....	1,995***	1,623***

*In general, these statistics are updated every January and August.
**The numbers given for active and retired priests are to be used only in those categories – they are not to be combined to give what appears to be a total number of priests.
***Number from previous fiscal/academic year (July 1, 2023-June 30, 2024).



**Kinship Korner
Refugee Resettlement Ministry**

This past week's presidential executive order immediately ceasing immigrant arrivals in this country means that Catholic Charities will no longer have new families arriving, but will continue to service the refugee population currently in Erie. Kinship's heart goes out to the 4 families that were scheduled for arrival in February, for whom we had already organized their household goods. One of these families was a family of 10. Kinship will be meeting with the director of refugee resettlement to discuss how we can move forward to support the current population. We will keep you informed as to the details of the new arrangement. Thank you to everyone who supported this ministry for the past 2 ½ years. The last family we assisted was our 199th family! We could not have achieved this milestone without your love and ever-present support.

Bags of Hope and Feeding the Hungry Ministries

These ministries remain active in our community. Feeding the Hungry purchases and prepares a meal for approximately 100 men, women and children the 2nd Monday of every month. Bags of Hope provides seasonal clothing to the Community of Caring on the east side which serves men and women who are chronically homeless by providing shelter, meals, and case management.

Tom Hudson 814-864-1615 Kinship Ministry and Sharon Bond
814-450-7748 Bags of Hope Coordinators

“Jesus Christ, Lord of all things! You see my heart, you know my desires. Possess all that I am—you alone. I am your sheep; make me worthy to overcome the devil.

– St. Agatha

Sign up today for the
Sacred Heart/St. Joseph/BOL/St Paul
FEBRUARY CHURCH
FAMILY DINNER

February 22nd at 5:00 PM at St. Paul Center.
next to St. Paul Church
right after Saturday 4PM Mass.

What's on the menu?
Rigatonis & Meatball dinner
(including salad, bread & Italian Love Cake for dessert)

RSVP by February 17th on the sign-ups at church entrances.
You may also call or email Trish or Jean in the church office.
Triparish.secretary816@gmail.com or 814-452-2982

ALL are welcome! FREE will donation accepted.



Julia's BOWLING FOR HOPE



Saturday, March 15

Doors open at 1 pm, Bowling starts at 1:30 pm

Eastway Lanes, 4110 Buffalo Road, Erie

Admission: \$25/person; includes 2 games, ball and shoes

Purchase tickets at door; no presales

Team/lane, 4-5 on a team

Families welcome; Individuals will be grouped into a team

Basket raffle and 50/50 drawing

Kitchen open for purchase of food/beverage

Proceeds will be used to build Julia House, Erie's first hospice house and palliative care clinic.

For further information, contact Karen Adams, 814-315-4245, smada49@verizon.net

Readings for the week of February 2, 2025

Sunday: Mal 3:1-4/Heb 2:14-18/Ps 24:7, 8, 9, 10/Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22-32

Monday: Heb 11:32-40/Ps 31:20, 21, 22, 23, 24/Mk 5:1-20

Tuesday: Heb 12:1-4/Ps 22:26b-27, 28 and 30, 31-32/Mk 5:21-43

Wednesday: Heb 12:4-7, 11-15/Ps 103:1-2, 13-14, 17-18a/Mk 6:1-6

Thursday: Heb 12:18-19, 21-24/Ps 48:2-3ab, 3cd-4, 9, 10-11/Mk 6:7-13

Friday: Heb 13:1-8/Ps 27:1, 3, 5, 8b-9abc/Mk 6:14-29

Saturday: Heb 13:15-17, 20-21/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6/Mk 6:30-34

Family Perspective

Mary and Joseph must have felt immense pride when their village 'all spoke well of Jesus and were amazed at his words.' However, they likely experienced shame when the same people drove him out of town. Like Mary and Joseph, the highs and lows of parenting are part of our journey towards becoming a Holy Family.



PLEASE JOIN THE ST GUISEPPE MOSCATI GUILD OF THE DIOCESE OF ERIE

MONDAY MARCH 3 @ 7PM

St Joseph Bread of Life Church
147 West 24d Street Erie

Pre Lenten Holy Hour
By Reverend Stephen Schreiber

Open to all Health Care Professionals and their families and friends



CATHOLIC YOUNG ADULTS OF ERIE

Coffee with Christ



Speaking on having hope amidst the challenges of life:
Fr. Luke Dagher



Saturday, February 8th, 2025
Following the 8am Mass at St. George

Coffee, tea & food provided
Bring a friend!

Open to all those graduated high school through age 40

Questions:
cberan@stgeorgeerie.org

Happy Groundhog Day



Faith Formation

Clint Badowski

faithformation@stjoesbol.org



" Our 4th and 5th grade students learned about the anointing of David in class recently. To have this become more meaningful, the class visited the church and got to view and get some great explanations about the anointing oils that are used today from Fr Steve. This was a great way to relate a scripture story to what we do today in our faith. Thank you to our amazing 4th/5th grade catechists Heather Hedderman and Robin Fahey and Fr Steve for continuing to bring our faith to life and bringing these youth closer to Christ."



Deacon Dabblings

DROP KICK ME JESUS THROUGH THE GOAL POSTS OF LIFE

Today is Monday, January 27th, and on Mondays I write my Deacon Dabblings. As always, I try to come up with something current that might be of interest and I thought about last Sunday (yesterday according to when this was written), that I was glued to the television watching the conference playoff games between The Philadelphia Eagles and Washington Nationals, and The Buffalo Bills and The Kansas City Chiefs. Those of you who follow professional football, and even those who do not, will now be inundated with the hype leading up to the Superbowl featuring The Philadelphia Eagles and The Kansas City Chiefs. So, I was thinking that maybe I should write something about football. Well, it was as if divine intervention wanted me to write about football, that a song came on the radio while I was driving called, "Drop Kick Me Jesus Through the Goal Posts of Life," by Bobby Bare. (I love country music). I got to thinking, how can I connect football and spirituality, after all, Deacon Dabblings is supposed to draw us closer to God and to each other. After hearing the lyrics, I found them to be quite appropriate for this issue. See what you think.

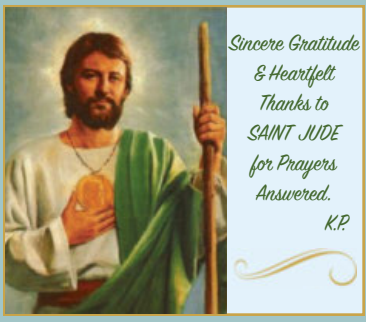
Dropkick me, Jesus, through the goal posts of life. End over end, neither left nor to right. Straight through the heart of them, righteous up rights. Dropkick me, Jesus, through the goal posts of life. Make me, oh, make me, Lord, more than I am. Make me a piece in Your master game plan. Free from the earthly temptation below I've got the will, Lord, if You got the toe. Bring on the brothers who've gone on before and all of the sisters who've knocked on your door. All the departed, dear, loved ones of mine, stick 'em up front in the offensive line. A lowly bench warmer I'm contented to be, until the time when you have need of me. The flash on the scoreboard that shines upon high and the big Super Bowl way up in the sky.

I read that "before 1906, forward passes were illegal. But once the forward pass became legal, the game was completely changed. The forward pass brought into play a new position on the team, the receiver, who directed by the play call from the quarterback, runs the route, and catches the ball."¹ What does this have to do with our spiritual life? In life, God is the quarterback and calls us to be receivers. All His throws are on target, but we often try to take over His role by calling our own plays thinking that we know what is best for us. Yet, God is so much better at developing a game plan for us. As receivers, we must suit up and step onto the field, get into the game and ask God, "What is my role?" To be a good spiritual receiver, we must huddle with God to hear His play by reading Scripture and spending time in prayer. And once we get the play from God, we must not become distracted by the secular world. By staying focused it will be easier to hang on to the ball and not have it stripped away by temptation or discouragement. The goal of every football play is to get to the endzone and not surprisingly our ultimate endzone is eternal life.

Speaker and leadership coach, John Barrett says it best, "No matter where you are in life, God is still calling plays on your behalf. Step into your role as a receiver, get into the huddle, and run your route with purpose. And when that ball comes your way, catch it, hold tight, and head for the end zone."²

<https://www.johnbarrettblog.com/spiritual-football-learning-to-catch-what-god-is-throwing-your-way/>

Peace of Christ,
Deacon Tony (Go Browns)



*Sincere Gratitude
& Heartfelt
Thanks to
SAINT JUDE
for Prayers
Answered.
K.P.*

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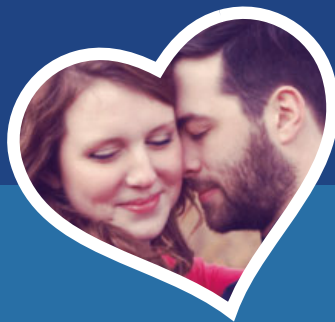


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