



“But I say to you, love your enemies
and pray for those who persecute you.”

Matthew 5:44



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LITURGICAL SCHEDULE

Weekend Mass

Saturday: **5:00 p.m.** at St. Ann’s in Marienville
Sunday: **8:30 a.m.** and **11:00 a.m.** at St. Mary’s in Crown

Confessions

Saturday: 4:15 p.m. - 4:45 p.m. at St. Ann’s in Marienville

1st Sunday of the Month: 10:30 a.m. at St. Mary’s in Crown

Weekday Mass

M, Tu, W, F: 8:30 a.m. at St. Mary’s in Crown
Th: 7:00 p.m. at St. Ann’s in Marienville

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

M, Tu, W, F: 7:30 a.m. - 8:20 a.m. at St. Mary’s in Crown

PASTORAL CARE OF THE SICK

Please notify the parish if a family member or parishioner is hospitalized, recovering at home, or in a nursing home. Visitation, Communion, and/or the Anointing of the Sick will be made available to them.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

A joyful occasion for the whole parish. Parents must be registered and active members. Classes are required. Please call St. Mary’s Church Office for arrangements.

SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE

Diocesan Common Policy requires at least six months advance notification before any plans are made to allow time for evaluation and sacramental preparation.

REMEMBER ST. MARY/ST. ANN IN YOUR WILL

“I give and bequeath to St. Mary Parish and/or St. Ann Mission, 117 Lencer Dr, Leeper, PA 16233, the sum of ___dollars, real estate, and/or stock for the purpose of assisting St. Mary Parish and/or St. Ann Mission in furthering the work of the Church.”

We welcome all new parish families and visitors to Saint Mary Church and St. Ann Mission. Please reach out to our Parish Office at (814) 744-9919 to register or go online at www.stmarycrown.com

As a parish member of Saint Mary Church or St. Ann Mission, you are actively supporting our Community with your time, talent, and resources.

THE HEAVIEST LOAD

A chip on the shoulder is the heaviest load anyone can carry.
—Anonymous

From the Desk of Father James

Dear Parishioners,

Ash Wednesday is *this* Wednesday, and it kicks -off the 6 weeks of Lent. Last week I wrote about the three ways by which we are invited to engage this Holy Season: prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. This week I wanted to draw your attention to one particular Lenten initiative which our parish will be participating in: the CRS Rice Bowl.

You will find cardboard bowls in the back of the church. These are distributed to families and used to collect donations for CRS (Catholic Relief Services), which is the international aid agency of our *American Catholic Church*. The Rice Bowl project particularly raises money to feed the hungry, both domestically and internationally. 25% of donations goes toward feeding the hungry in America and 75% goes toward feeding the hungry internationally. The Rice Bowls will be collected at the end of Lent.

The agency which facilitates this initiative is Catholic Relief Services, which is the international aid arm of the American Catholic Church. Catholic Relief Services is an organization that we can be proud of, and it is one that I whole-heartedly recommend when it comes to supporting those affected by international tragedies such as the Ukrainian War or the Turkey-Syria Earthquake. I say that it is an organization that we can be proud of because it is consistently one of the highest rated international aid agencies. The organization "Charity Watch," which thoroughly examines the finances and operations of various charities, gives them the very rare grade of an A+. Consider that Doctors Without Borders only gets an A, the American Red Cross an A-, the American Wildlife Foundation a B+ and the American Cancer Society a B-.

May you have a Blessed and Holy Lent!
In Christ,
Fr. James

Sacrament of Reconciliation
St. Ann Church — Saturday at 4:15 p.m.



Saturday, February 18, 2023

SCI-Father's Day Remembrance

M:5:00 p.m. Deceased Members of the George & Mary Gregory Family
By George Gregory

Sunday, February 19, 2023

C:8:30 a.m. All Parishioners
C:11:00 a.m. Caroline (Carol) Bloomstine
By the Power Family

Monday, February 20, 2023

C:8:30 a.m. Bill, Millie, & Billie Schmader
By Chuck & Karla Beichner

Tuesday, February 21, 2023

C:8:30 a.m. Elsie Stetter
By The Pace Family

Wednesday, February 22, 2023

Ash Wednesday

M:8:30 a.m. Don Stinebiser
By Rene Grumbaugh

C 7:00 p.m. Marie Baxter
By Ken & Darlene Flick

Thursday, February 23, 2023

M:7:00 p.m. Elsie Schwabenbauer
By Kitty & Joe Rodgers

Friday, February 24, 2023

C:8:30 a.m. Edward, Cecelia, & Bernie Dechant,
& Troy Hockman

By The Bogel Family

Saturday, February 25, 2023

SCI- All Souls Remembrance

M:5:00 p.m. All Parishioners

Sunday, February 26, 2023

C:8:30 a.m. James Karg
By Mary Ann Groner

C:11:00 a.m. Most Reverend Donald W. Troutman
By Rev. James Power

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

February 22, 2023— Ash Wednesday

1st Reading: Genesis Joel 2:12-18

2nd Reading: 2 Corinthians 5:20-6:2

Gospel: Matthew 6:1-6

February 26, 2023

1st Reading: Genesis 2:7-9, 3:1-7

2nd Reading: Romans 5:12-19

Gospel: Matthew 4:1-11

NEXT WEEK'S SCHEDULES

Lector: February 22, 2023 —Ash Wednesday

M: 8:30 a.m. John

C:7:00 p.m. Bob

February 25, 2023 and February 26, 2023

M:5:00 p.m. Penny

C: 8:30 a.m. Chuck

C:11:00 a.m. Dave

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion:

February 22, 2023—Ash Wednesday

M: 8:30 a.m. Kerry

C:7:00 p.m. Ed

February 25, 2023 and February 26, 2023

M:5:00 p.m. Jeanne

C:8:30 a.m. Andy & Walt

C:11:00 a.m. Jan

Collection Counters

February 26, 2023

Carolyn, Tim, Penny, Lissie

Weekly Collections

February 5, 2023 \$3,902.00
February 12, 2023 \$1,780.26

Child Protection and Creating Safe Environments- Bystanders can help.

Bystanders can play a big role in stopping bullying. When people do nothing, it sends a message that it's no big deal to bully. If people say something, it sends a social message that bullying is not OK. If you see someone being bullied, you can help by doing these things: *Speak up to help*: If it feels safe and natural to speak up, say, "come on, let's get out of here" to the person being bullied. It is okay to let the bully know people are watching and will get involved. *Report it*: Let a trusted adult know what you witnessed. This isn't tattling, it is standing up for what's right. *Offer support*: Check in with the person who was being bullied. Ask how they are doing. Remind them that the bullying is not their fault. For additional resources visit www.eriebcd.org/childprotection/

REPORTING EMAIL/PHONE SCAMS

Online criminals will often search church bulletins to look for email addresses and phone numbers of potential victims. They will then create an email account with which they will fraudulently impersonate the pastor of the church or some other church employee. If you get an email or text from someone claiming to be Fr. James or another representative of the parish, and that email or text asks for gift cards or personal information, please forward it to Fr. James's real email account so that he can report it to the authorities. His real email address is JPower@ErieRCD.org.

Prayer Chain– If you wish to join or add someone to the Prayer Chain, please contact Sheila Martz at 229-3083, or Jane Wallace at 927-8566.

Bulletin Announcements: Any information for the bulletin **MUST** be written and in the church office by noon on Friday, a week before the date to be published due to printer schedules.

ROSARY

You are invited to pray the Rosary before 5:00 p.m. Mass at St. Ann's Church. All are welcome to attend.

Catholic Services Appeal 2023

Today is Catholic Services Appeal Sunday. The CSA is the main source of support for projects and services of the diocese which serve parishes and the wider community in northwestern Pennsylvania. Our diocese does the work of the Gospel and needs your help to continue this important work.

The CSA is essential to helping the Diocese of Erie fulfill its mission to evangelize, educate, serve, proclaim the Word, celebrate the sacraments, and provide hope to people in need. Your participation ensures the success of the CSA and is important to the health of our parish. Our parish assessment for this year is \$23,529.00. Any money we raise above our assessment stays within the parish and will be used for our projects this year; converting the cry room into a reconciliation room for Confession and updating the locks for Stutz Hall, Church, and Rectory. Every CSA donation brings us closer to completing our own Parish projects.

You may drop your pledge card, or an envelope marked CSA, into the Collection basket or return it in the Parish office.

Please join other Catholics from across the 13 counties of our diocese in supporting this important appeal. No contribution is too big or too small.

Parish Council will meet on Monday, March 6 at 6:00 p.m. in Stutz Hall.

St. Ann's Women's Club Meetings

February – no meeting
March – Thursday, March 9th – 5:30 p.m.



Knights of Columbus will meet Monday, March 13, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. in Stutz Hall.

This Week's Sponsor

Leeper Market
Leeper, PA
814-744-8811

Please support our sponsors!!!

CRS RICE BOWL

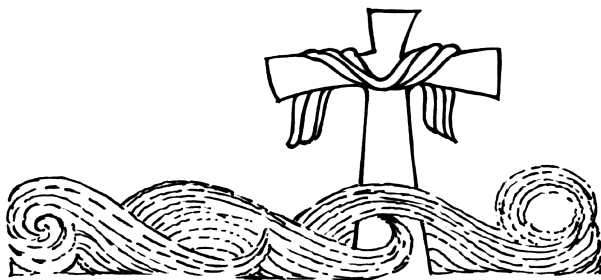
During Lent, we focus in an intentional way on turning away from sin and toward God to grow in his love. The Lenten pillars of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving help us do this. CRS Rice Bowl – Catholic Relief Services’ Lenten faith-in-action program – is a way to invite parishioners and school families to practice these pillars while reflecting on the needs of our sisters and brothers and how we can respond in love to support them.

Sixty percent of all Rice Bowl contributions support CRS’ humanitarian and development programs overseas, providing life-saving assistance and hope to our sisters and brothers around the world. The remaining forty percent stays in our diocese to support local hunger and poverty prevention programs. The 2022 contributions of your parishes and schools assisted over 25 organizations including food pantries and soup kitchens. Thank you for your generosity.

CRS Rice Bowl provides resources to bring Lenten spirituality to life for families, parishes and school communities while continuing to connect Catholics in our diocese with our global human family. Together, we can respond to Christ’s call to help those in need and ensure everyone reaches his or her God-given potential.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

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



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See the Story of Jesus Through the Eyes of Those Who Followed Him

Join Catholic Rural Ministry Sisters in viewing “The Chosen” Season 1, this Lent on Thursday mornings (Feb. 23 to March 30), 9:30 am – 11:30 am at St. Elizabeth Center Social Hall (ground floor), 311 Emerald St., Oil City PA. All are Welcome!

-Sister Marian and Sister Tina

OUR FASCINATING FAITH

Ashes

There are three major Biblical traditions concerning ashes: repentance, mourning, and mortality, and they are interrelated. Repeatedly throughout the Bible we encounter the use of ashes (often together with sackcloth) as a penitential practice. A similar practice is seen when someone is in mourning or distress. And ashes are a metaphor for human life, which is seen as brief and destined to end in death:

Ashes are the result of fire, the complete burning of something that was alive. They are ephemeral; the slightest puff of air can send them away into nothingness. It is easy to see how ashes came to symbolize fleeting human life or the humility of repentance.

Ashes can represent other things as well. For example, ashes are often used to fertilize our gardens and fields. Ash is therefore necessary to bring about and nourish life.

We can now begin to see how appropriate a symbol ashes are for the season of Lent. For Lent is not only a time of repentance, of sorrow for our sins. It is a baptismal season of preparation for the new life of our catechumens and of recalling the new life of our own baptism. We start Lent in ashes, and end it in Easter. What will the ashes mean to you this Lent?



Marienville/North Clarion Food Pantry:

Items needed are: cake mix, boxed dinners, boxed potatoes, jello, pudding, egg noodles, mac & cheese, muffin or quick bread mixes, canned beef stew, canned chicken, and liquid laundry soap.

Please remember monetary donations are always welcome. Checks are to be made payable to the Marienville Methodist Church – in the memo write: Marienville/North Clarion Food Bank. Mail checks to the Marienville Methodist Church, PO Box 281, Marienville, Pa. 16239. Your generosity helps families in our community. Please no expired food

The Marienville Food Pantry Needs You!

We are looking to increase our volunteer roster. If you can assist in this vital ministry, contact Rev. Heidi Helsel at (724) 420-4420 or hrevmom@gmail.com. Thank you for your prayers and support.

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sunday: Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time
Monday: Presidents' Day
Tuesday: St. Peter Damian;
Mardi Gras; Shrove Tuesday
Wednesday: Ash Wednesday; Fast and Abstinence;
Washington's Birthday
Thursday: St. Polycarp
Friday: Abstinence

DISCIPLES TOGETHER

Today's readings reflect on our communal identity as disciples. Before we begin Lent together in a few days, we take time to appreciate what God has done by giving us our family of faith. In Leviticus, God tells Moses to "speak to the whole Israelite community" and give them instructions for living in love. Moses passes along the message—to each and every believer—that God's people must strive together for holiness. Saint Paul echoes this message, insisting that we are indeed God's holy children. As temples of the Spirit, we belong to Christ and to one another. This mutual belonging is a blessing and a challenge. In Matthew's Gospel, Jesus sets a high bar for Christian community: his followers must love not only those who are easy to love, but also the people who upset us. Together, let us ask God to give us this kind of love.

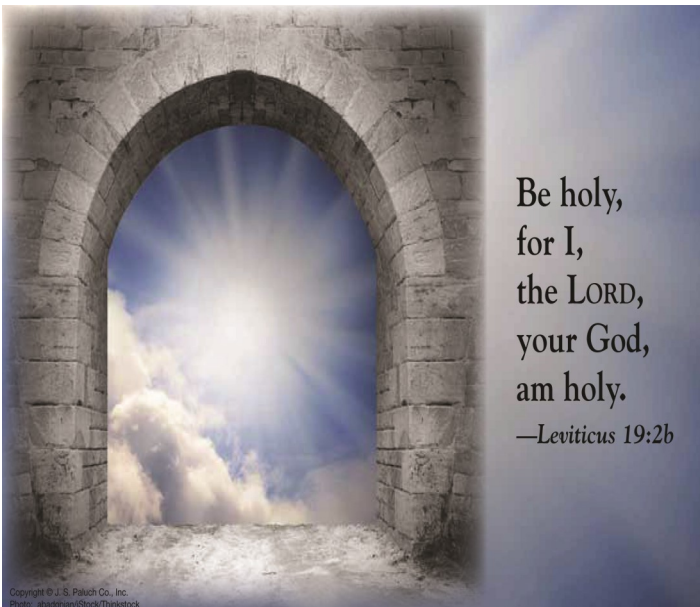
OUR CHURCH FAMILY NEWS



February	20	Jonah Carroll Joe Sullivan
February	21	Jeff Cyphert
February	22	Elsie Carroll Tyler Lencer
February	25	Miriam Boylan Carmen Gett
February	26	Jeanne Andring Olivia Siegel



There are no anniversaries at this time.



CONSIDERING BECOMING A CATHOLIC?

If you, or someone you know, is considering becoming Catholic, please contact Fr. James. You can catch him after Mass or reach him by phone (814 744-9919) or by email (JPower@ErieRCD.org).

MARRIAGE MOMENT

Ash Wednesday is Feb. 22. For many, Lent is a season of "giving up." This year consider what new action you are willing to take to deepen your married love.