

From the Desk of Deacon Jerry

Wednesday, November 1st is **All Saints Day** and a Holy Day of obligation. Our Wednesday Masses are at 12:05 pm at St. Ann and 4:00 pm at St. Casimir.

Daylight Savings Time ends on Sunday, November 5th. Before retiring on Saturday, November 4, remember to turn your clocks back one hour.

The weekend of Nov. 11-12 has been designated by Bishop Persico as a **weekend of prayer for Pastoral Planning across the Diocese of Erie**. There will be special prayers at our 11:00 am Mass. As with every endeavor we undertake, prayer must be at the center of our efforts. Keep up-to-date on Pastoral Planning by visiting www.eriecd.org/planning.html.

St. Stanislaus Parish is hosting a **Pro-Life Holy Hour** today, Oct. 29 at 2 p.m. at the church, 516 E. 13th St., Erie. This special hour of prayer is open to everyone and focuses on fostering a greater respect for all human life. Special intentions include a variety of urgent causes, from victims of human trafficking to those facing terminal illnesses. This event is sponsored by the St. Stanislaus Pro-Life Community and aligns with October's Respect Life Month. Come unite in prayer for these critical issues.

The **Our Lady of Mercy Knights of Columbus** is sponsoring a dance featuring Erie's most popular band, **The Groove**, on Nov. 10 in the gym, 837 Bartlett Rd., Harborcreek from 7 to 11 p.m. Tickets are on sale after Saturday/Sunday Masses and are available in the parish office from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Ticket price is \$15 per person. The dance has been a sell-out in the past, so get your tickets early. Capacity is limited.

Our Lady of Mount Carmel Ladies' Guild will once again hold a **Christmas Bake Sale**. You can order and pay online at www.olmc-erie.org, call your order in to the parish office at 814-825-7313, or drop off/mail your order. Order sheets can be printed from the website. **All orders must be pre-paid.** The deadline for ordering is **Tuesday, November 14 at 1:00 pm** and pick-up will be in Scheffner Hall on Saturday, **December 9 from 3-5 pm and Sunday, December 10 from 8:30 am-12:00 pm**. Questions? Call Diane at 814-456-1183 after 4 pm.

The **Maria House Project** invites you to its **Bingo Bash** on Nov. 12 at the JPTF Events Center, 2319 W. 38th St., Erie. Doors will open at 12:30 p.m., and bingo games will start at 2 p.m. Tickets can be purchased online for \$30 in advance or for \$35 at the door, covering all regular games and the jackpot. Additional attractions include a basket raffle, 50/50 and instants. Attendees are encouraged to bring their own food and beverages, although Passalinqua's Pizzeria is attached to the hall for those wishing to purchase food. For further details, please visit www.mariahouseproject.org.

St. Luke Parish in Erie invites you to join Funtastics, a group of card-playing adults that meets regularly at the St. Luke cafeteria, 421 E. 38th St., Erie. The group enjoys games of Euchre as well as single-deck and double-deck Pinochle. Upcoming gatherings are scheduled for Nov. 9, Nov. 30, Dec. 14 and Dec. 28, all starting at 6 p.m. For more information, contact Kevin at 814.882.8070.

Who is Our Neighbor?

Love your neighbor as yourself – we have all heard this saying and know that it is one of the central teachings of Jesus. Unfortunately, we are all too familiar with other popular sayings that have crept into our society such as “Watch out for number 1” or “Do unto others before they do unto you.” These sayings contradict the teachings of Jesus and perhaps at times make it difficult for us to live out the Gospel message. Yet the underlying message is that love of God and love of our neighbor cannot be separated. We are all created in the image and likeness of God.

This Sunday's Gospel sets a clear priority for how we are to act: love above all else as Jesus showed us how to love by the way he lived.

While self-centeredness, crime, violence, and greed can create a dark image of our society, it is not a complete picture of the way we live together. Almost all of us are generous and caring people who truly take this Gospel to heart.

We see it lived out in the random acts of kindness in the supermarkets, in the people who pay for someone's meal, in how our community overwhelmingly supports fundraisers, in the work of catholic charities, habitat for humanity, in our work for social justice, and the list goes on and on!

Each day we have a chance to be the love of Christ to others. We have the chance in our own circles to live out what Jesus has taught us by loving our neighbor. We can make a difference.

Let's all take this Gospel challenge: Look around and ask yourself – who is your neighbor – how can I show love to my neighbor? Whether it is through a random act of kindness, kind words, or even your presence in their time of need, how can you make someone's day better for having been with us?

Try it every day for a month and see if doesn't make a difference in your life as well as the lives of others. May we always make it a priority to love God in the neighbor we meet each day.