

From the Desk of Deacon Jerry

Please pray for the repose of the soul of **Joseph O'Hara** whose funeral was at St. Ann on Thursday. May we also remember his family and friends in our prayers as well. Eternal rest grant unto him O Lord.

Please **continue to pray** for victims and their families of that tragic shooting that took place in Buffalo as well as those in Texas. While we continue to grope for solutions to end this type of violence, we must never stop seeking the help of our Lord.

Happy Memorial Day! Our Mass is on Monday at 10:00 am at St. Ann. Please enjoy the "unofficial first day of summer" with your family and friends. According to the weather forecast it appears it will be like summer this week!

Four Eucharistic processions planned for June 19. All are invited to participate in one of four Eucharistic processions scheduled in the Diocese of Erie on Sunday, June 19. Be a part of this national event as we enter into a three-year Eucharistic Revival for the Catholic Church in the United States, renewing devotion and belief in the real presence of Jesus in the Eucharist. The processions begin at 1 p.m. at the following locations: St. Peter Cathedral, Erie; St. Bernard Church, Bradford; Catherine of Siena Church, DuBois; Notre Dame Church, Hermitage. The Blessed Sacrament will be exposed for adoration following the last morning Mass at each site. All processions return to the church to conclude with Benediction. For more information, contact the parishes hosting each procession. For details about the revival, visit www.ErieRCD.org/EucharisticRevival.html.

Diocesan anniversary celebrations for couples celebrating 25, 40, 50, and 60+ years of marriage in 2022 will be held in two locations in the Diocese of Erie: July 31 at St. Mary Parish at 2 p.m.; and Aug. 7 at Holy Cross Parish, Fairview, at 2 p.m. Couples interested in attending either event or simply receiving a scroll are asked to register, either by going to <https://www.eriecd.org/familylifeoffice/anniv.html> or filling out a hard copy form which is available by request from the parish office. All completed hard copy forms must be forwarded to the Marriage and Family Life Office of the Diocese of Erie either by mail, email or fax. Mail to St. Mark Catholic Center, C/O Faye Froess, 429 E. Grandview Blvd., Erie, PA 16504; email to ffroess@ErieRCD.org; or fax to 814-824-1239. For more information, contact Faye Froess at 814-824-1210.

Knights of Columbus baby bottle fundraiser update. Country Fair stores in the region are participating in a Pump for Charity event that will benefit five charities, including the Knights of Columbus baby bottle fundraiser. The Knights fundraiser will help the Women's Care Center pay for an ultrasound van. Country Fair is clearly marking one to two "Pump for Charity" gas pumps at each location. From now until Oct. 31, 2022, two cents a gallon at the designated pumps will be donated and split among the five charities selected by Country Fair. A Country Fair gas card also provides a discount of 5 to 10 cents off per gallon. Baby Bottles are still at the exit of the church. If you are financially able, please fill them with change, currency or checks and return them on Father's Day, Sunday, June 19. There is a bin in the back of church for collecting bottles that are returned before June 19. The goal of this fundraiser, which is sponsored by the **Knights of Columbus** is to benefit the Women's Care Center of Erie's goal of purchasing a mobile ultrasound van. This medically equipped vehicle will visit rural areas, as well as our five local Universities to provide valuable lifesaving services.

May we be one! ... In this week's Gospel John gives us Jesus's final prayer and a glimpse into the loving heart of our Lord. In this prayer and farewell he gives the Apostles and the world hope in the promise of God's protection through the Spirit.

All throughout his earthly ministry Jesus was a source of protection for his apostles and now each one of us can count on him being here for us today. He is there In our prayers, in our lives with each other, in the life of the Church, in the word, and in the sacraments, especially reconciliation and the Eucharist.

Jesus also prays that all his followers may be one, just as he and the Father are one. It seems this prayer is just as important in our lives today, given the division that exists in all areas of our society, even our own church. Rather than working for unity, many are quick to point out the flaws in some-one else's thinking, ideas, or beliefs.

Jesus' call is for unity, not uniformity which means we will not all think the same and that everyone's relationship with Christ will look the same. Oneness in Christ also does not mean that we live out our vocations and lives exactly the same way.

Jesus gives us the perfect example of how to do this. When we look to Jesus what do we see? Love, total self-giving and concern for others, even to the point of death on a cross. Isn't that how each of us want to strive to live our lives?

We also have an example in our first reading from Acts. Stephen the Deacon, who was the first martyr of the Christian faith was put to death for crimes he did not commit. What really stands out the most is the faith and grace with which Stephen accepted his fate. This is a humbling lesson for all of us in this world, where so many seek revenge and are so angry at those with whom they disagree.

During the storms of our lives and all the disappointment we experience – all the rejection that may come our way – we must turn to our Lord and trust in his word, his will and his work. Following the example of Jesus and Stephen, let us forgive those who wrong us, let us be more patient with those who do not think like us, and let us be more tolerant of those who are different from us in hopes that they, too, will be with us one day in the Father's house.