

24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

September 13, 2020

Forgiveness: This year marks the tenth anniversary of a senseless murder in our quiet community. Christie, a teenage girl, was stalked and killed by a man now serving a life sentence in prison. Ten years later, Christie's parents have requested permission to visit their daughter's murderer. It has taken some time, but Christie's parents know that the only way to heal this unthinkable injury is to forgive it.

Have you ever paid off a large debt? Perhaps it was a car, a college loan, or your mortgage. It's a joyful feeling. But imagine one step further (or maybe this has actually happened to you). By some serendipitous event, the money appeared unexpectedly. The weight of the world was lifted as you crawled out from underneath the burden of debt. Stay with the feeling of that memory. Isn't it strange that the servant's response to his fellow servant was one of greed and anger just after something so wonderful has happened? We might wonder if more was troubling the servant than just his debt?

Jesus cleared the slate for us. If we allow the joy of that event to permeate our being, our joy has to radiate and spread to others. Think of someone who is in your debt, someone who needs something from you like forgiveness, kindness, generosity. What will you do to spread the Good News to that person? What joy will you bring to that person?

PARISH NEWS

Saturday Mass: September masses will be held at St. Michael's.

(SJP & SMP) Parish website: stjoseph-stmichaelparishes.org

Funerals: All funerals are at 10 am (unless it conflicts with daily mass).

Weddings: All weddings are at 1:00 pm at both churches with no exceptions. Permission is needed before having a visiting priest perform the ceremony. Anyone preparing for a wedding needs to contact the office at least 6 months prior.

Rosary: We ardently desire that it (the rosary) be devoutly continued and that the habit of the daily recitation of the rosary in an alternating manner, so appreciated by our forefathers and by them considered sacred for the Christian family, be once again established. Pope Pius XI

St. Joseph Church is looking for a Religious Education Director starting in July 2021. Anyone who is interested or has questions please contact Judy Wolbert at 226-8399 or email stjoercd@yahoo.com.

St. Michael's Care and Concern: If you know of anyone from St. Michael's who would like added to the list of people to receive cards, please contact Sue McCleary at 814-227-9613.

St. Joseph School is in need of school supplies for the 2020-21 school year. They are in need of colored dry erase markers, reams of white copy paper, and colored copy paper. If you are able to help with this please either drop them off in the box at the back of St. Joseph Church or at the school. Thank you!



PARISH NEWS

Office: Contact the office at St. Joseph with any questions or concerns you may have from either Parish. (814)226-7288. Thank you!

Hall rental for St. Joseph's: If you would like to rent the hall, you will now need to contact the church office.

St. Michael Church Roof Update: So far, our total available monies for the project are \$504,026 (does not include Labor Day \$50,000). The contractor's estimated cost for the entire project is \$642,000.00. Please consider joining your fellow parishioners in supporting this effort by donating to this fundraiser. St. Michael Church also has 2 crosses and 2 hearts handcrafted of pieces of broken glass from our steeple windows available for a donation of \$10,000.00. Please contact Cathie Zacherl at 814-782-3938.

St. Joseph Religious Education Program is in need of 3 catechists for grades 6, 7 and 8. Please contact Judy Wolbert, 226-8399, or stjoercd@yahoo.com if you can help out. Without catechists, these students will be homeschooled with assigned projects.

Charitable Deeds Update: The schedule for the garage sales is as follows: September 17th, 18th, & 19th; October 15th, 16th, & 17th. November and December have not been scheduled yet. If you have items you would like to donate to help with the garage sales, please call John at 814-221-9966. The money raised at these sales goes to help the poor and needy in Clarion, Venango, Forest, and surrounding areas. The address for the sale is 260 High Point Rd, Knox, PA 16232. The monthly food banks schedule is as follows: September 24th and October 22nd. November and December are not scheduled yet. Once they are scheduled they will let us know. They have been helping 140 families with a shopping cart of groceries. If you know of anyone who is struggling to put food on their table, please give them our number 814-797-0286. If they live in Clarion and Forest counties, they can come to the food bank. They would need to call in to register prior to the food drive. Please call 814-797-0286 if you would like to volunteer.

Liturgy Schedule September 19th & September 20th

5:00 p.m. St. Michael Church

Sacristan: Jody Guth
Lector: Jody Guth
Euch Min: Father only
Altar Server: None
Ushers: None
Rosary: Karen Schmader

8:00 a.m. St. Joseph Church

Lector: Mike O'Neill
Euch Min: Father only
Altar Server: Logan Swanson
Ushers: None

10:30 a.m. St. Michael Church

Sacristan: Jody Guth
Lector: Carol Kiser
Euch Min: Father only
Altar Server: Jake Eisenman
Ushers: None
Rosary: Marie Fletcher

Mass Schedule September 14th - September 20th

Monday, September 14th

5:15 p.m. - (SJP) Jean Wilson Bauer by Mary Alice Schmader

Tuesday, September 15th

8:00 a.m. - (SMP) Helen Smerkar by The Parish

Wednesday, September 16th

8:30 a.m. - (SJP) School children and Teachers

Thursday, September 17th

8:00 a.m. - (SMP) Mary & Velma Duncan by Vance

Friday, September 18th

8:00 a.m. - (SJP) Doc & Marge Bauer's 60th Wedding Anniversary by The Family

25th Sunday of Ordinary Time

Saturday, September 19th

Confession at St. Michael, 4:00 p.m.

5:00 p.m. — (SMP) Ed & Frances Fesenmyer by Tom & Elaine Fesenmyer

Sunday, September 20th

8:00 a.m. — (SJP) Eugene Carroll by Rege & Carol Lenhart

10:30 a.m.—(SMP) Parish Family

Collection Counters

SJP: Annette & Robert Wielock, Ken Lander
SMP: Sue & Todd Beichner, Judy Weirich

THE SANCTUARY CANDLE burning in memory of

SJP: Donna Hartle by Bill

SMP: Susan G. Obenrader by Ted & Susanna Kurtzhals

PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED FOR:

Parish Family, All Special Intentions

Service People on Active Duty

Sluggar Wagner, Steve Phillips, Jayleigh Ochs, Brendan & Terry George,
Punkie & Joe Griebel, Jim Pfaff, Barb Wigton, Traci Kumer, Chuck Zacherl,
Fr. Daniel Prez, Roxanne Miller, and a special intention

All victims of disasters and violence

If you'd like to add someone, call the office or drop a note in the collection basket.

School News (814) 226-8018

—You can register your children now for the '20-'21 school year.
Call the school for more information. (814) 226-8018.

PARISH STEWARDSHIP

Special Thanks to all who sacrifice to support St. Joseph's

DATE: September 5th & September 6th

Sunday Collection: \$2,305

Loose Collection: \$104

Special Thanks to all who sacrifice to support St. Michael's

DATE: September 5th & September 6th

Sunday Collection: \$3,988

Loose Collection: \$288.70

SJP: St. Joseph assessment to Diocese: \$29,345

Parishioners Pledged: \$36,858

Parishioners Paid to Date: \$33,168

Balance Due to Diocese of Erie: \$0

Roof money: \$3,823

SMP: St. Michael assessment to Diocese: \$36,015

Parishioners Pledged: \$35,513

Parishioners Paid to Date: \$32,683

Balance Due to Diocese of Erie: \$3,332

Roof money: \$0

Roof Money to Date: \$504,026



August 31, 2020

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I ask for your support of the Catholic Education Collection being held on the weekend of September 19-20.

This annual second collection supports lifelong education and faith formation opportunities for everyone throughout our entire diocese. Catechesis is not only for children. We are all called to deepen our faith.

Please generously support this collection. Half of the funds raised from this collection remain in your parish to support its education and faith formation programs.

The other half funds diocesan wide faith formation efforts including leadership training and conferences for those engaged in ministry as well as tuition assistance for families attending Catholic schools. A small portion also supports The Catholic University of America which promotes Catholic Social Teaching and the training of priests, religious and lay leaders.

Thank you for your generosity. Contributions can be made directly at your parish or online at www.ErieRCD.org/Catholic-Education-Collection.html. Be assured of my prayers for you and your family. With every best wish, I remain,

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+Lawrence T. Persico

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

September 13th (www.wau.org)

Wrath and anger are hateful things, yet the sinner hugs them tight. (Sirach 27:30)

Grudges. We've all carried them. At some point, each of us has been hurt by a friend, family member, or coworker. We can feel wounded and hold onto our anger, to the point where it defines us as a victim. But our first reading tells us this is not a healthy response.

When Sirach wrote these words two thousand years ago, he was clued into something that modern psychologists are only coming now to understand. Withholding forgiveness affects our physical and mental health. It can elevate our blood pressure, disrupt our sleep, and weaken our immune system. It can decrease our ability to trust people and reinforce a negative mindset about life. Why would we "hug tight" to these things that harm us? Only forgiveness can help us loosen our grip.

When we choose to forgive, even if the offender doesn't ask for forgiveness, we stop being that "wronged person." We overcome the stress and bitterness and negativity that were wrapped around us. Best of all, we open ourselves up to the Lord's healing.

God knows everything we've gone through: the ways we've been hurt and the ways we've hurt the people around us. He forgives us, like the master in today's Gospel. If we let God's forgiveness soften our hearts and break through our guilt, shame, and sadness over the hurts we have caused, we will find the grace to act the same toward the people who have hurt us.

If you're struggling with a grudge or offense, bring it to God in prayer. Ask him to help you release your hold on anger, even if you feel justified. Forgive the person who hurt you even if you can't physically reconcile with them. Let the act of forgiveness bring you peace and help you move on.

"Father, help me to let go of wrath and anger. I don't want to refuse mercy to anyone. Teach me how to forgive!"

25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sunday, September 20, 2020

(Lec. 133)

- I. Isaiah 55:6-9
- II. Philippians 1:20c-24, 27a
- III. Matthew 20:1-16a

Liturgy of the Word

Isaiah encourages his people to *seek the Lord* and ask for his mercy - God whose thoughts are so far above their own.

Saint Paul tells the Philippians that *Christ will be magnified in my body, whether by life or by death*. And though Paul longs to be with Jesus in the next life, it is better that he remains with them.

In the Gospel, Jesus tells a parable about workers in a vineyard, emphasizing the generosity of the landowner to all who labored.

AROUND THE DIOCESE

Catholic Rural Ministry (814) 677-2032

7 Pulaski St., Oil City, PA 16301

Sister Tina Geiger, RSM ~ Sister Marian Wehler, OSB
srtinag@gmail.com or marianwehler@yahoo.com

24 Hour Emergency

Pregnancy (814) 459-3103

Community Counseling (814) 793-6602

Kalyumet