

Lakeshore Catholic Faith Community

Pastor......Rev. Timothy Koester Pastor Emeritus......Rev. John Kwiecien

## **Parochial Vicars**

Rev. Ross Syracuse -- Rev. Michael Johnson Rev. Johnson Machado

## **Permanent Deacons**

Deacon Joseph Gray -- Deacon Bill Walkowiak Deacon Neal Linnan -- Deacon Stephen Schumer

## MPB Parish Staff

Pastoral Care.....Elizabeth Emhof (716-262-4782) Trustees.....Elizabeth Duzen & Conrad F. Piskorz Business Manager......Mary Lou McEvoy *RCIA.....*Marie O'Connor (716-549-1818) Faith Formation.....(716-549-1818) Liturgy Ministries Coordinator......Corinne Best Parish Secretary......Pat Maiorana Sacristan......Diann Hosler Parish Council Chair.....John Latimore

## MPB Rectory Office Hours

Monday & Friday......9:00 a.m. -- 1:00 p.m.

SCAN HERE FOR



#### **MASS SCHEDULE**

Saturday Vigil:		4:00 p.m.
Sunday:		8:00 a.m.
Weekdays: Monday, We	dnesday. Friday:	8:00 a m

#### **SACRAMENTS**

Infant Baptism: During weekend Masses. Parents must be practicing Catholics and attend a Pre-Baptismal Class. Call the rectory office to register.

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA): Call the rectory office.

Reconciliation (Confessions): Tuesdays 5:30-6:30 p.m. or by appointment, in the Chapel.

Marriage: Couples contemplating marriage must make an appointment to meet personally with the Pastor before a definite wedding date may be scheduled. Church arrangements should be made at least 6 months prior to the wedding. No wedding date will be scheduled over the phone.

Anointing of the Sick: Anyone who is seriously ill is invited to contact the rectory to request the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick and Holy Communion.

## **Parish Devotions**

Holy Hour with Eucharistic Adoration: Wednesdays: immediately after morning Mass. First Friday Devotions and Benediction: 8:30-11:00 a.m.

Letters of Recommendation: Registered parishioners in good standing for a minimum of 3 months and active, who are confirmed, and if married, did so in accordance with the Church's regulations, will be issued letters on request. One week prior notice is required.

New Parishioners: We welcome you warmly. Please register at the rectory office as soon as you arrive

Page Two March 3, 2024



Saturday, March 2

Vigil: Third Sunday of Lent

4:00 PM - Peter Scaglione - req. Family

Sunday, March 3 - Third Sunday of Lent

8:00 AM - Howard & Shirley Kaiser - req. Kathie &

Don Mogavero

Monday, March 4 - St. Casimir

8:00 AM - All Faithfully Departed

Wednesday, March 6

8:00 AM - Timothy Dybdahl - req. Wife Fran

Friday, March 8 - St. John of God, religious

8:00 AM - People of the Parish

Saturday, March 9 - St. Frances of Rome, religious Vigil: Fourth Sunday of Lent

4:00 PM - Mary Anne Constantino Balon - reg. Family

Sunday, March 10 - Fourth Sunday of Lent

8:00 AM - Diane Stacy - req. Dad

In your prayers, please pray for the deceased of the parish.

When a weekend Mass is celebrated in the intention of a loved one, please inform one of the ushers that you would like to bring up the gifts in the offertory procession.

## **READINGS FOR SUNDAY, MARCH 3**



**EXODUS** 20:1-17 **PSALM** 19 **1 CORINTHIANS** 1:22-25 **JOHN** 2:13-25

## **READINGS FOR SUNDAY, March 10**

2 CHRONICLES 36:14-16, 19-23 PSALM 137 EPHESIANS 2:4-10 JOHN 3:14-21

#### **MPB Parish Breakfast**

A Parish Breakfast will take place March 10 in Most Precious Blood's Hall following the 8:00 Sunday Mass.

## **A Vocation View**

Who will preach the Commandments of God to the next generation? If you feel called to this ministry, contact Fr. David Baker at 716-847-5535 or visit buffalovocations.org

# A Message from the Pastor

Third Sunday of Lent: Our Spiritual Sacrifice

Jesus' action at the Temple in Jerusalem is recorded in all four Gospels and is often understood to be among the events that led to Jesus' arrest and Crucifixion. The Gospel of John, however, places this event much earlier in Jesus' public ministry than do the Synoptic Gospels. In John's Gospel this event occurs at the very beginning of Jesus' ministry, after his first miracle at the wedding feast at Cana. Now let's see if we can put it together, for our present Lent!

Jesus does not come to destroy the temple, but to fulfill it, to reveal its true purpose in God's saving plan. He is the Lord the prophets said would come: to purify the temple, banish the merchants, and make it a house of prayer for all peoples. The God who made the heavens and the earth, who brought Israel out of slavery, does not dwell in sanctuaries made by human hands. Nor does He need offerings of oxen, sheep, or doves.

Notice in today's First Reading that God did not originally command animal sacrifices, only that Israel heed His commandments. His law was a gift of divine wisdom, as we sing in today's Psalm. It was a law of love, perfectly expressed in Christ's self-offering on the Cross.

This is the "sign" Jesus offers in the Gospel today, the sign that caused Jewish leaders to stumble, as Paul tells us in the Second Reading. Jesus' body, destroyed on the Cross and raised up three days later, is the new and true sanctuary. From the temple of His body, rivers of living water flow, the Spirit of grace that makes each of us a temple and together builds us into a dwelling place of God.

In the Eucharist we participate in His offering of His body and blood. This is the worship in Spirit and in truth that the Father desires. We are to offer praise as our sacrifice. This means imitating Christ, offering our bodies, all our intentions and actions in every circumstance, for the love of God and the love of others.

This Lent we reflect upon the meaning of this "sign" for us and for our world. We take this opportunity to consider the quality of our prayer and worship. In our prayer we seek to deepen our relationship with the person of Christ. In our worship with the community, we gather to experience anew the passion, death, and Resurrection of Jesus and its significance in our lives. Christ promises to be present with us in prayer and worship.

Choicest Blessings,

Fr. Tim

-- A Lenten Reflection with Fr. Tim --Tuesday, March 5 -- St. Anthony 6:00 p.m. -- In the Church Page Three March 3, 2024

# Pray For the Healing of the Sick

Diane Cooke, Eugene Frometa, Jane Granville, Pauline Landes, Karen Schiavone, Vigo Meyer, Linda Muscato, Anthony Genovese, Fran Downey, Dorothy Genovese, Lucille Zoda Galfo, Joseph Schiavone, Marlene Petrie, Antoinette Pinter, Kim Borkowski, Anna Geidel, John Yerney, Mary Ann Hartzell, Evelyn Paradiso, Carol Penski, Joyce Prisco, Angela Jones.

## St. Patrick Day Party at MPB

MPB's St Patrick Day Party will take place Sunday, March 3 from 4:00 until 7:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall.



A corned beef dinner or a Reuben sandwich will be served with desserts, coffee, tea and soft drinks. A cash bar will also be available.

Live entertainment will consist of music by the Panfil Brothers and a performance by the Rince na Tiarna Irish Dancers. Ticket donations are \$25.

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## **Southtowns Catholic to Host Gala**

Southtowns Catholic School of the parish of St. John Paul II will host its annual charity event, which this year has as its

theme A Night at Gatsby's. It will take place Friday, April 12 beginning at 6:30 p.m. at Michael's Catering and Banquets, 4885 Southwestern Blvd., Hamburg. All are invited and encouraged to dress in the style of the '20s. Tickets are \$125 and may be reserved at the school office or on the website (www.southtownscatholic.org).

The evening will feature entertainment, games, food, beverages, auctions and Best Dressed award. The grand prize is a trip to a European place of your choice with \$1500: Paris, Madrid, Prague, Vienna or Rome. Second prize is your choice of Key West, Cancun, Jackson Hole or Lake Tahoe with \$500.

## Chiavetta's Drive-Thru Barbecue

St. Mary of the Lake Parish will host a Drive-Thru Barbecue Dinner by Chiavetta's Sunday, March 17 from Noon until 6:00 p.m.

Menu choices are:1/2 Chicken Dinner (\$15); 1/2 Rack of Ribs Dinner (\$18); Full Rack of Ribs Dinner (\$29).

## **Split Club Drawing**

The winner of the 2024 Spring Split Club's second drawing (the week of February 25) is **Tony Emhof III** with ticket #66.

2024 Split Club tickets are still available for purchase at the Rectory Office. The price of each ticket is \$60. Split Club members are eligible for 16 weekly drawings of \$75 each.

# **Road to Renewal Update**

In these first three Sunday's of Lent we have experienced the temptation of Jesus in the Desert, experienced the Transfiguration, and now with the backdrop of Moses receiving the decalogue, we find Jesus overturning the Temple. In today's story we find that John places the context as soon after the first "Sign" or Miracle. This is intriguing and deliberate by the Church. I find all this saying to me that we must be rooted in the law and tradition, we must believe in the "real presence" of God in our lives, and we must return our love to God's, always. It is first and forever, God first! Trials and temptations and moral quagmire are real, but the endgame is us and how we engage.

If you haven't heard it, the Road to Renewal process was invoked by Pope Francis' call to Re-Evangelize our more recent losses, and to Evangelize the world in our time. It is designed to help us unite and grow stronger as the people of God. The particular model we are using incorporates the required reorganization put forth in the Chapter 11 process, and the Church's vision. Ultimately, we are forming our Church for the second half of the Twenty-first Century. Responsible to required State, Court, Church, and Diocesan Guidelines, our faith is at the core, rooted in scripture and tradition, passed down from Christ to the apostles and safeguarded and taught by the magisterium of the Church.

I have tried to listen to all, consulted with representatives and collaborated with the clergy. In the end, I am responsible to bring "Lakeshore Catholic Faith Community" and all its components through this process. I've tried to put forth things for the whole, and have done that through these vehicles (bulletin, webpage text and app). I will continue these and we are working on better ways as we go forward. I have learned from these first three weeks of Lent that we must be rooted in the law and tradition; we must believe in the "real presence" of God in your lives; and we must return our love to God's, always. For me it is first and forever, God first! Consider the same.

Choicest Blessings,

Fr. Tím

# **Healing Mass**

A Healing Mass will take place Wednesday, March 13 at 7:00 p.m. at Our Lady of Victory Basilica, Ridge Rd. and South Park Ave., Lackawanna.

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## MPB Calendar

Saturday, March 2

4:00 p.m. - Vigil Mass

### Sunday, March 3

8:00 a.m. - Sunday Mass 9:00 a.m. - Faith Formation (K-8) - Hall 4:00 p.m. - Irish Dinner - Hall 7:00 p.m. - Faith Formation (9-11) - Hall

#### Tuesday, March 5

5:30 p.m. - Reconciliation - Chapel 6:00 p.m. - Lenten Reflection - St. Anthony - Church

## Wednesday, March 6

Following 8:00 Mass - Holy Hour - Chapel 10:30 a.m. - Bible Study - Annex 7:00 p.m. - Bible Study - Annex

#### Friday, March 8

5:00 p.m. - Stations of the Cross

Saturday, March 9

4:00 p.m. - Vigil Mass

#### Sunday, March 10

8:00 a.m. - Sunday Mass 8:30 a.m. - Parish Breakfast - Hall 9:00 a.m. - Faith Formation (K-8) - Hall 7:00 p.m. - Faith Formation (9-11) - Hall

## Mission 2024

All are invited to register for the 2024 Mission at St. John Paul II, a seven-day Lenten retreat that takes place March 3-9. Each session features a speaker, discussion groups, music, a liturgical service and fellowship. Register online at: <a href="https://www.jp2parish.org/mission-2024.html">https://www.jp2parish.org/mission-2024.html</a>.

## **Lenten Season Food/Paper Drive**

MPB's drive to collect food, paper goods and personal care items to restock shelves at Operation Good Neighbor (OGN) continues until March 31. Goods turned over to OGN will be distributed to Town of Evans families in need.

Acceptable items are dry and canned foods only (e.g. soups, cereals, pasta and vegetables). Baby food and diapers are also in great demand. Examples of personal care items are Kleenex, paper towels, toothpaste, deodorant, shampoo and bathroom tissue.

Leave items in the red container at the Chapel entrance or call 716-481-4480 or 716-507-6703 for pickup.

# 'Synod on Synodality' Listening Session

All are invited to the Synod on Synodality Diocesan Listening Session Wednesday, March 13 from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at Resurrection Parish Center, 130 Como Park Blvd., Buffalo.

The evening will walk through the synthesis from the first general assembly in Rome and offer an opportunity to have your voice heard on a variety of discussion topics that will be presented.



2/25/24	
Regular, Loose, Mailed in	\$2,554.00
ACH	\$360.00
Thank you for your support	

# STATIONS OF THE CROSS IN THE FAMILY OF PARISHES

The celebration of the Stations of the Cross will take place in all of the parishes of the Family during Lent:

St. Francis - Fridays at 7:00 p.m. St. Mary of the Lake - Fridays at 12:00 p.m. St. John Paul II - Fridays at 9:00 a.m. & 6:00 p.m. Most Precious Blood - Fridays at 5:00 p.m. St. Anthony's - Tuesdays at 6:00 p.m.

## A LENTEN REFLECTION

Join Fr. Timothy Koester, Pastor, as he reflects on the Family's journey. You are invited to attend each session, which begins at 6:00 p.m. in the church: March 5 - St. Anthony; March 12 - St. Mary of the Lake; March 19 - St. John Paul II.

# St. Joseph Table

The Dentice Family invites you to its 38th annual St. Joseph Table Wednesday, March 9 from 6:00 until 10:00 p.m. at the VFW Post 1419, Lakeview Rd., Hamburg. Although there is no admission price, a free-will offering will be accepted.

In addition to the traditional food, the evening will include music and raffles. Proceeds will benefit Operation Good Neighbor, Pancreatic Action Network, and Lake Shore Central Scholarship Fund.

# **Lenten Rice Bowl**



During Lent, MPB is again involved in the Rice Bowl Project. Bowls have been placed at all entrances of the church.

Please consider putting into the bowl whatever loose change you may have. At the end of Lent, whatever has been donated will be turned over to support the works of Operation Good Neighbor, St. Vincent de Paul and the Ladies of Charity.

March 9 & 10	MPB Extraordinary Ministers	Lectors
4:00 p.m.	N Preischel, F. Dybdahl, J. Sack	P. Pinto
8:00 a.m.	J. Dillon, J. Barone, K. Young	D. Gelencser