

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

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Saturday, March 16

Vigil: Fifth Sunday of Lent

4:00 PM - Bob Jakubczak - req. Wife Toni

Sunday, March 17 - Fifth Sunday of Lent

8:00 AM - Renee Walstead - req. Family

Monday, March 18

8:00 AM - All the Faithfully Departed

Wednesday, March 20

8:00 AM- Patricia Jasinski - req. Sandy

Friday, March 22

8:00 AM - People of the Parish

Saturday, March 23

Vigil: Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord 4:00 PM - Anna Perez - reg. Family

Sunday. March 24 - Palm Sunday of the Passion of The Lord

8:00 AM - All Faithfully Departed

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 17



JEREMIAH 31:31-34
PSALM 51
HEBREWS 5:7-9
JOHN 12:20-33

READINGS FOR SUNDAY, MARCH 24 MARK 11:1-10

ISAIAH 50:4-7 PSALM 22

PHILIPPIANS 2:6-11 MARK 14:1 -- 15:47

A Vocation View

We are the people of God's New Covenant, and the Covenant is renewed at every Mass. Who will continue to lead this profound act of worship?

If God is asking you to consider the priesthood, contact Fr. Dave Baker at 716-847-5535 or visit buffalovocations.org .

A Message from the Pastor

Fifth Sunday of Lent: The "Hour" Comes

Today's Gospel reading is taken from the Gospel of John. We are reading much further into John's Gospel than we have for the past two weeks. Now in Chapter 12 is a preparation for the beginning of the passion narrative to follow. This event also marks the turning point in Jesus' conflict with the Jewish authorities. John's Gospel tells us that the Sanhedrin met after this event and made plans to kill Jesus.

Our readings today are filled with anticipation. The days are coming, Jeremiah prophesies in today's First Reading. The hour has come, Jesus says in the Gospel. The new covenant that God promised to Jeremiah is made in the "hour" of Jesus, in His Death, Resurrection, and Ascension to the Father's right hand. The prophets said this new covenant would return Israel's exiled tribes from the ends of the world. Jesus too predicted His passion would gather the dispersed children of God. But today He promises to draw to Himself not only Israelites, but all men and women.

The new covenant is more than a political or national restoration. As we sing in today's Psalm, it is a universal spiritual restoration. In the "hour" of Jesus, sinners in every nation can return to the Father, to be washed of their guilt and given new hearts to love and serve Him. In predicting He will be "lifted up," Jesus isn't describing only His coming Crucifixion. Isaiah used the same word to tell how the Messiah, after suffering for Israel's sins, would be raised high and greatly exalted. Elsewhere the term describes how kings are elevated above their subjects.

Troubled in His agony, Jesus doesn't pray to be saved. Instead, as we hear in today's Second Reading, He offers himself to the Father on the Cross, as a living prayer and supplication. For this, God gives Him dominion over heaven and earth. Where He has gone, we can follow, if we let Him lead us.

To follow Jesus means hating our lives of sin and selfishness. It means trusting in the Father's will, the law He has written in our hearts. Jesus' "hour" continues in the Eucharist, where we join our sacrifices to His, giving God our lives in reverence and obedience; confident He will raise us up to bear fruits of holiness. Through his death and Resurrection, Jesus conquered Satan. In this way the world is judged, but the judgment is not condemnation. Instead, through Jesus' dying and rising, salvation is brought to the world.

Choicest Blessings,

Fr. Tim

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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, David Skoczylas, Doreen Miller, Mary Ann Barrett.

St. Joseph Table

Most Precious Blood Parish will have its annual St. Joseph Day Dinner Tuesday, March 19 in the Hall from 4:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. All are invited to partake of the traditional

Sicilian meal which features a meatless cuisine.

Beginning with lentil soup, diners will select a pasta dish topped with a tomato sauce (with or without the sardine/fennel mixture), vegetable omelets, fish, eggplant, dandelions and other vegetables breaded and fried. Desserts will include sfinge and cannoli. Various beverages will also be served.

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.

First Reconciliation

Congratulations to the following members of the Lakeshore Catholic Faith Community who received the Sacrament of First Reconciliation at St. Anthony's Church March 2: Amelia Clark, Reagan Hamilton, Logan Kwilos, Riley Leonard, Klayton White, Terrence White and Mason Williams.

Rev. Timothy Koester, pastor of the Family of Churches, delivered the opening prayer and distributed certificates following the First Confession event.

Split Club Drawing

The winner of the 2024 Spring Split Club's fourth drawing (week of March 10) is **Arlene Heineman** with ticket # 080.

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

Today we celebrate the Fifth Sunday of Lent, which takes precedence over the memorial of Saint Patrick. Saint Patrick left us a model of immeasurable value. He was not Irish, but he found his faith while being held prisoner by a group of Irish raiders.

At the age of 16, Patrick was taken prisoner, transported to Ireland and held captive for six years. He worked as a shepherd, away from people, lonely and afraid. He turned to his religion for solace, became a devout Catholic and upon release, was educated and prepared for the priesthood.

Upon ordination as a priest, he was sent to Ireland to minister to Catholics already living there and to convert the Irish who were practicing pagan religions. He is known as the patron saint of Ireland.

After becoming a priest and helping to spread Christianity throughout Ireland, Patrick was likely proclaimed a saint by popular acclaim. In the face of challenge and adversity, Patrick put his faith and trust in the Lord to return to those souls in need of Christ. His journey was full of uncertainty, challenges, and people who wanted to do wrong by him. He did not retreat or give in to pagan practices.

Patrick is a wonderful example for us in Lent but maybe at this time in our Renewal, Lawsuits and Chapter 11, even more so. Let us also call upon Saint Patrick to intercede for us, to make us better missionary disciples on our journey.

Choicest Blessings,

Fr. Tim

Catholic Charities

Did you know that St. Patrick is the patron saint of the Catholic Charities 2024 Appeal?

St. Patrick is known for his unwavering faith and tenacious drive to spread the Gospel. Celebrating his feast day this Sunday, we pray that we, too, can be steadfast in our mission and have the same zeal for Christ's work through us as St. Patrick did. May we follow his example. St Patrick, pray for us!

Make an Appeal donation at www.ccwny.org/donate or text HOPE4WNY to 44321.

Family Penance Service

A Penance Service for all parishes of the Lakeshore Faith Community will take place at St. Anthony's Wednesday, March 20 at 7:00 p.m.

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MPB Calendar

Saturday, March 16 4:00 p.m. - Vigil Mass Sunday March 17

7:30 a.m. - Rosary (prior to Mass)
8:00 a.m. - Sunday Mass
8:30 a.m. - Rosary & Altar Society Coffee Hour - Hall
9:00 a.m. - Faith Formation (K-8) - Hall
7:00 p.m. - Faith Formation (9-11) - Hall
Tuesday, March 19

St. Joseph's Day Dinner - 4:00 - 7:00 p.m. 5:30 p.m. - Reconciliation - Chapel 6:00 p.m. - Lenten Reflection - St. John Paul II - Church 7:00 p.m. - Respect Life - Chapel Wednesday, March 20

Following 8:00 Mass - Holy Hour - Chapel 10:30 a.m. - Bible Study - Annex 12:00 p.m. - "Journey Through Lent" - LACC - at MPB 7:00 p.m. - Bible Study - Annex Friday, March 22

> 5:00 p.m. - Stations of the Cross **Saturday, March 23** 4:00 p.m. - Vigil Mass

Sunday, March 24

8:0 a.m. Sunday Mass (Palm Sunday) 9:00 a.m. - Faith Formation (K-8) - Hall 7:00 p.m. - Faith Formation (9-11) - Hall

-- Holy Week --Lakeshore Catholic Faith Community

<u>Holy Thursday - (March 28)</u> **Mass of the Lord's Supper** - 7:00 p.m. St. John Paul II

Altar of Reposes - until 10:00 p.m. St. Mary of the Lake, St. John Paul II, Most Precious Blood

Good Friday - (March 29)

Stations of the Cross - 8:30 a.m. - St John Paul II Stations of the Cross - 12:00 p.m. - St. Francis Good Friday Services - 3:00 p.m.
St. Mary of the Lake and Most Precious Blood Tenebrae - 7:00 p.m. - St. Francis

Holy Saturday - (March 30) Basket Blessing

10:00 a.m. - St. John Paul II (SCS Gym) 12:00 p.m. - St. Francis (Social Center) 1:00 p.m. - St. Anthony (Parish Hall)

Easter Vigil

8:30 p.m. - St. Francis and St. Anthony

Easter Sunday - (March 31)

8:00 a.m. - Most Precious Blood 8:30 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. - St. Francis 9:00 a.m. and 11:30 a. m. St. John Paul II 10:30 a.m. - St. Anthony 11:00 a.m. - St. Mary of the Lake



3/10/24		
Regular, Loose, Mailed in	\$2,752.00	
ACH	\$360.00	
Black & Native American Missions		
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 the last session, which begins at 6:00 p.m. March 19 in the church at *St. John Paul II*.

Diocese Honors 5 in Lakeshore Family



Congratulations to five members of the Lakeshore Catholic Faith Community who were among those from throughout the Diocese receiving the Lay Award of St. Joseph the Worker last Saturday at the Cathedral.

Honored were **Spencer Vail** (Most Precious Blood), **Phillip and Cheryl Waterman** (St. Anthony), **Roger Nicol** (St. Mary of the Lake) and **Nancy Whytas** (St. John Paul II).

Bishop Michael W. Fisher, who presided over the day's Mass, said, "With gratitude for the generosity and ministry and the work that you do for our parishes, our pastors and our people, we honor you this day."

And the Lakeshore Family adds, "Thank you for your hard work and dedication. You make a difference."

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. 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 pick-up.

March 23 & 24	MPB Extraordinary Ministers	Lectors
4:00p.m.	J. Sack, F. Dybdahl	P. Pinto
8:00 a.m.	K. Young, L. Feider	D. Gelencser