

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

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

Sunday, March 10 - Fourth Sunday of Lent

8:00 AM - Diane Stacy - req. Dad

Monday, March 11

8:00 AM - Poor Souls in Purgatory - req. Betty

Wednesday, March 13

8:00 AM-Eleanore Kaczmarczyk-req. Pat & Daughters

Friday, March 15

8:00 AM - People of the Parish

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 - Patricia Jasinski - req. Sandy

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 10**



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

#### **READINGS FOR SUNDAY, MARCH 17**

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

### **MPB Parish Breakfast**

Sunday, March 10 Most Precious Blood will have its Parish Breakfast in the Hall following the 8:00 Mass.

#### **A Vocation View**

"Whoever lives the truth comes to the light," Jesus told Nicodemus. Step into the light of Jesus and hear His calling in your life. If it involves a Church vocation, contact Fr. Dave Baker at 716-847-5535 or visit buffalovocations.org.

# A Message from the Pastor

Fourth Sunday of Lent: Living in the Light

The fourth Sunday of Lent is sometimes called Laetare Sunday. Laetare is a Latin word that means "rejoice." Traditionally, Sundays are named after the first word of the liturgy's opening antiphon. On this Sunday, the antiphon is taken from the book of the prophet Isaiah. Even as we observe our Lenten sacrifices, we rejoice in anticipation of the joy that will be ours at Easter.

The Sunday readings in Lent have been showing us the high points of salvation history: God's covenant with creation in the time of Noah, His promises to Abraham, the law He gave to Israel at Sinai. In today's First Reading, we hear of the destruction of the kingdom established by God's final Old Testament covenant, the covenant with David.

His chosen people abandoned the law He gave them. For their sins, the temple was destroyed and they were exiled in Babylon. We hear their sorrow and repentance in the exile lament we sing as today's Psalm. But we also hear how God, in His mercy, gathered them back, even anointing a pagan king to shepherd them and rebuild the temple.

God is rich in mercy, as today's Second Reading teaches. He promised that David's kingdom would last forever, that David's son would be His Son and rule all nations. In Jesus, God keeps that promise. Moses lifted up the serpent as a sign of salvation. Now Jesus is lifted up on the Cross, to draw all people to Himself. Those who refuse to believe in this sign of the Father's love condemn themselves, as the Israelites in their infidelity brought judgment upon themselves.

But God did not leave Israel in exile, and He does not want to leave any of us dead in our transgressions. We are God's handiwork, saved to live as His people in the light of His truth. Midway through this season of repentance, let us again behold the Pierced One and rededicate ourselves to living the "good works" that God has prepared us for.

Do note that in John's reflection, we find an observation about human sinfulness. Jesus is the light that has come into the world, but people preferred the darkness. We wish to keep our sins hidden, even from God. Jesus has come into the world to reveal our sins so that they may be forgiven. This is the Good News. It is the reason for our rejoicing in this season of Lent and throughout our lives.

Choicest Blessings,

Fr. Tím

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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.

## 'Synod on Synodality' Listening Sessio

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 topics.

#### 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 third drawing (week of March 3) is **Vera Naab** with ticket # 196.

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**

Traditionally, the month of March is dedicated to Saint Joseph. We celebrate the feast day of the earthly father of Jesus on Tuesday, March 19 this year. We draw special attention to Saint Joseph in the Diocese of Buffalo because he is our patron.

Although we do not hear a lot about Saint Joseph in scripture, what we do read tells us that he was a just and devout man. His life was taken in a direction he could have never imagined, finding out his wife to be was with child and receiving a vision from an angel of God. Throughout it all, Saint Joseph remained steadfast in his faith. He knew in his heart that God was in control and had great trust in Him.

Saint Peter Julian Eymard wrote, "Devotion to St. Joseph is one of the choicest graces that God can give to a soul, for it is tantamount to revealing the entire treasury of our Lord's graces. When God wishes to raise a soul to greater heights, he unites it to St. Joseph by giving it a strong love for the good saint." Brother Andre Bessette exemplified that.

In these unique and challenging times, full of change and new beginnings, let us ask Saint Joseph for his intercession. Let us strive to emulate his faith by careful devotion to his model of faith, hope and love.

I invite you to consider invoking St. Joseph to pray for us every time we gather in community. And consider between March 11 through March 19 to commit to praying the novena to Saint Joseph, asking him to pray to our Father in Heaven that our Church, our Diocese, our Family, our Parishes will be renewed and flourish through our embrace and working in our renewal process.

Choicest Blessings,

Fr. Tím

#### **Catholic Charities**

HOPE when hope feels lost

Asking for help can be difficult. That's why the Catholic Charities staff works to create a welcoming environment in order to serve others with dignity and respect.

When you support the Catholic Charities Appeal, you support this level of care. Give today and help provide HOPE to those in need.

Visit <a href="https://www.ccwny.org/donate">www.ccwny.org/donate</a> or text HOPE4WNY to 44321.

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### MPB Calendar

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

#### Tuesday, March 12

5:30 p.m. - Reconciliation - Chapel 6:00 p.m. - Lenten Reflection - St. Mary of the Lake - Church 7:00 p.m. - Respect Life - Chapel

#### Wednesday, March 13

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

#### Friday, March 15

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

#### 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

# -- 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 Fríday** - (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\*\*

# <u> Holy Saturday - (March 30)</u>

### 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





#### 3/3/24

Regular, Loose, Mailed in	\$3,804.00
ACH	\$1,838.00
Maintenance	\$1,167.00

### 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 12 - St. *Mary of the Lake*; March 19 - St. John Paul II.

## **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.

## **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 pick-up.

March 16& 17	MPB Extraordinary Ministers	Lectors
4:00 p.m.	P. Pinto, F. Dybdahl, J. Sack	R. Scaglione
8:00 a.m.	S. Vail, L. Feider, J. Barone	J. Sedor