Lenten practices and regulations

The season of Lent begins this year on Ash Wednesday, Feb. 10, and concludes when ashes are applied to the forehead. The first day begins at the start of the evening Mass of Lent’s Supper on Holy Thursday evening, March 24.

Traditional Lenten practices of PRAHER, FASTING and ALMSGIVING and other forms of self-denial are recommended by the church. Daily Mass is particularly encouraged.

Lenten observances:

- ASH WEDNESDAY: ALL FASTS IN LENT and GOOD FRIDAY are days of abstinence from meat for those 14 years of age and older.
- ASH WEDNESDAY AND GOOD FRIDAY are also days of fasting to those 18 and older, inclusive. On these days, those bound by the law of fasting may take one hot main. Two smaller meals, sufficient to maintain strength according to one’s needs, are also permitted. Eating between meals is not permitted, but liquids including milk and fruit juices are allowed. When health or work is seriously affected, the law does not oblige.

Special Collections

Be lights of hope through giving.

Catholic Services Appeal

Commitment Sunday—Feb. 7

The annual Catholic Services Appeal is a unified appeal conducted each year in parishes and missions throughout the Diocese of Erie. The money that individuals give provides aid to programs, ministries and services of the church.

Commitment Sunday for the CSA is Feb. 7. Pledges envelopes will be distributed during each of the Masses in every diocesan church and mission. Pledges can be fulfilled until the campaign ends on Dec. 31.

The appeal goal for 2016 is $4.1 million. This goal covers 45.5 percent of the 2016 income for the Diocese of Erie. One hundred percent of the money a parish raises over its CSA goal remains in the parish to fund capital improvements and important parish projects, as well as supplement the parish operational budget.

Lenten Rice Bowl Collection

Catholic Relief Services (CRS) offers Operation Rice Bowl as a resource to bring Lenten spirituality to life for families, parishes and school communities. This program provides families around the world with the tools they need to learn about poverty and hunger.

In the Diocese of Erie, 60 percent of all Rice Bowl donations collected support CRS programs around the world. The other 40 percent remains in the Diocese of Erie to fight hunger and poverty through local food pantries, shelters and soup kitchens.

Use Rice Bowls at home or in classes. More resources are available at www.crsricebowl.org.

Clergy Appointments

The Most Rev. Lawrence Persico, JCL, Bishop of Erie, makes the following clergy appointments.

Rev. Matthew J. Kujawinski, pastor of Our Lady of Peace Parish, Erie, effective Feb. 1, 2016, for a term of six years.

Mig. Edward M. Lohse, JCL, apostolic vicar for Canonical Services, assistant vicar for the see of St. George Parish, Erie, effective Feb. 1, 2016, term unspecified.

Rev. Johnathan P. Schmitt, pastor of St. Mary of Grace and St. Agatha parishes, Meadville, effective Feb. 1, 2016, term unspecified, while continuing as pastor of St. Brigid Parish, Meadville.

Rev. Marc A. Stollen, OJC, Judicial Officer Vicar for the Diocese of Erie, effective Jan. 18, 2016, for a term of six years, while continuing as pastor of St. Peter Parish, Meadville.

Rev. Thomas N. Troccoli, parochial vicar of St. Agatha, St. Brigid and St. Mary of Grace parishes, Meadville, effective Feb. 1, 2016, term unspecified.

Deacon Patrick Comfort, deacon assistant, St. Michael and St. Joseph parishes, Dallas, effective Nov. 12, 2015, term unspecified.

CSA means mercy

For those struggling with a physical disability, Peace Project offers a message of mercy in this hour.

“With our help, we try to be a bridge for these families, offering encouragement and support,” said Msgr. Lohse.

2016 CSA Campaign

The 2016 CSA Campaign goal is $4.1 million. This goal includes local assessments to be paid to the Diocese of Erie, effective Jan. 18, 2016, for a term of six years.

“Advocacy and support for families in need is a priority for us, the diocesan leadership,” said Father Ferrick.

Catholic Schools

Schools celebrate new Aquatics Center

On the count of 1-2-3—on, the Villa Maria Academy swim team made history Jan. 17 by being the first to jump into the eight-lane pool at the new David M. Hallman III Aquatic Center in Erie.

Complete with an underwater sound system, the 25-yard pool is classified as a training, with lap swim from its 6 inches to 12 feet, 4 inches, perfect for competition. Additional features, 10-foot deep pool is designed for training and swim lessons.

“It was exciting jumping in. Everyone was yelling and screaming and splashing around,” says Sara Prischak, a sophomore member of the Villa swim team.

Prischak’s parents, Dennis and Tara, won the bid for the first event of last year’s Pep-Pep-Leggy CSA. Sara wanted to share the success with her teammates.

“We turned it into the whole Villa swim team for the first splash. We were all really excited because we’ve been waiting so long and watching the building go up,” Sara says.

The opening of the pool for the first swim meet Jan. 21 signaled the completion of the estimated $2.5 million Pep-Pep and Villa Events Center on W. 32nd Street. It features the Aquatic Center, the Jeanne Mallety Gymnasium and Deggello Field.

The Aquatic Center is the last of the major additions, having been completed in the past two years and one month, according to Chris Hagerty, school’s director of strategic initiatives.

“That’s lightning speed in Erie, and all paid for with private funding and not one single cent of taxpayer funding,” Hagerty says.

The Aquatic Center, considered the most advanced training facility in the area, will be available to elementary schools and community swim clubs, and will be used for swimming lessons. —FaithLife

St. Peter Catholic Parish pledges ongoing support of Catholic education

BY MARY DULIGERI, FAITHLIFE

Father Michael Ferrick, rector of St. Peter Catholic Parish in downtown Erie, emphasizes with the parishioners and the parents of children at St. Peter Elementary School who learned Jan. 14 that the school would close at the end of this academic year.

“We’re had 120 years of Catholic education at the Catholic, but the pandemic understand that we could no longer go on with a parish grade school,” Father Ferrick says. “But what we want people to know is that parish still supports Catholic education.”

Students who are currently enrolled at St. Peter’s will receive a one-time $500 scholarship if they elect to attend another Catholic school for the 2016-17 school year. And, says Father Ferrick, “We have the parish plan to provide scholarships for the children of parishioners so that their children can attend Catholic schools.

“If we look at Catholic education in Erie, there has always been change,” Father Ferrick says. “We have to make sure strong schools.”

I don’t want to be doing this [closing a school]. I want strong schools; parents want strong schools.

— Bishop Peretti

follow the people: Our objective is educating the children and passing on the faith. How can we do that best?

The Diocese of Erie publicly announced the closure Jan. 17. Bishop Lawrence Persico pointed to declining enrollment and financial concerns as factors that prompted the action a month before his announcement on the faith. How can we do that best?

FaithLife
THE bus to get warm and drier campus. How truly blessed we are to have the confidence that we are always going to be taken care of. As Christians, we know that the Creator has lovingly brought us to our home. Blessed with the precious gift of social support, we knew that we were bring built-up in our friends to be my loved ones. As Americans, how extended families we use to have the confidence that someone, in some way, will come to our aid.

As we finally pulled away in the dusk—passing six miles of trapped trucks soon to be freed—some of us joked about the nostalgia of our “neighborhood.” In the midst of our joking, there was truth. We were expressing something we all were sharing deep down, that despite the inconvenience, unanticipated, unplanned, and, at times, uncomfor-


demolition we found ourselves in, it was an experience we will always remember and even cherish. It proved that the relationship we’ve been building with our parish and members of Newman Catholic Campus Ministry from Edinboro University of Pennsylvania.

The bus was among hundreds trapped Jan. 22-23 on the Pennsylvania Turnpike.

The Lord comes to us everywhere—even in the months ahead. The most important thing is that it gives me a reason to come to the Lord and seek the help of my friends who are in need of it. God bless you all!}

Mass for the stranded

Pennsylvania Turnpike—Father Dan Hall, pastor of Our Lady of the Lakes Parish, Edinboro, is pictured in the aisle of a stranded bus during an impromptu Mass with members of his parish and members of Newman Catholic Campus Ministry from Edinboro University of Pennsylvania.

The bus was among hundreds trapped Jan. 22-23 on the Pennsylvania Turnpike.

December 2015

FaithLife

St. George Church/Marie Lafaro shows a path around a March for Life bus stranded on the Pennsylvania Turnpike Jan. 22-23.

Catholic Services Appeal means mercy

FINDINGS FROM THE 2015 AMERICAN FAMILY SURVEY

New survey asked Americans about their attitudes and practices regarding marriage and the family.

The study was sponsored by The flour Inc., Bothell, Wash., and implemented by the University of Miami for the Archdiocese of Seattle.

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The study was sponsored by the Flour Inc., Bothell, Wash., and implemented by the University of Miami for the Archdiocese of Seattle.
Interfaith service offers healing

The refrain of “Let There Be Peace on Earth” opened an afternoon prayer service Jan. 17 included, from left, Bishop Dwane Brock of Victory Christian Center, Erie Bishop Lawrence Persico, Sheikh Mazin Alsahlani of Almakarim Islamic Foundation, Rabbi Emily Losten-Olsen of Temple Anshe Sholom, and Sister Marilyn Schauble, CSFN, of Mount Saint Benedict Monastery in Harborcreek.

Speakers at the interfaith prayer service Jan. 17, included, from left, Bishop Dwane Brock of Victory Christian Center, Erie Bishop Lawrence Persico, Sheikh Mazin Alsahlani of Almakarim Islamic Foundation, Rabbi Emily Losten-Olsen of Temple Anshe Sholom, and Sister Marilyn Schauble, CSFN, of Mount Saint Benedict Monastery in Harborcreek.

The event was free and open to the public. For more information, contact Holy Trinity Parish, 2220 Reed St., Erie, PA 16503. Order pick-up dates are Feb. 7 after 4 p.m. or by calling 814-456-0671, or by mailing requests to: Holy Trinity Parish, 2220 Reed St., Erie, PA 16503. Payment is due with orders for pierogis and potato pancake batter. Orders can be placed at 814-456-0671, or by mailing requests to: Holy Trinity Parish, 2220 Reed St., Erie, PA 16503.

Students work on winter break

Need pierogies or potato pancake batter? ERIE—Holy Trinity Church is accepting pre-orders through Feb. 5 for hometown Lenten meals. Payments are due with orders for Pierogies and potato pancake batter.

Orders can be placed at 814-456-0671, or by mailing requests to: Holy Trinity Parish, 2220 Reed St., Erie, PA 16503.

Lenten vigils scheduled at monastery

Lenten vigils will be held at 7 p.m. every Tuesday during Lent at Mount Saint Benedict Monastery in Harborcreek. The public is invited. Reflections will be offered each of their evenings.

* Feb. 13—Olalekan Kajumo
* Feb. 20—Sister Pat Lupo, OSB
* Feb. 27—Sister Dorothy Stoner, OSB
* March 5—Sister Jean Wolbert, OSB
* March 12—Sister Christina Kibele, OSB
* March 19—Sister Katherine House, OSB

Lenten reflection on the Year of Mercy

KANE—Men, women and young adults are welcome to attend an afternoon of Lenten reflection at the parish hall of St. Cultrius Parish on Feb. 27 from 3 to 5 p.m. Benedictine Sister Amy McCarthy will speak on “Pope Francis and the Year of Mercy.” The Benedictine Sisters of the Catholic Rural Ministry are sponsoring the event.

Tickets are $15 and can be purchased by contacting Margaret French at 814-843-4343, or at St. Phyllis Fishbecker, OSB, at 814-544-8017 or mfishbecker@gmail.com.

“Those students were deeply spiritual,” Sister Theresa says. “I think they took a piece of my heart back with them.”

“Restoring the hearts of the widows of Israel”

Interfaith prayers for peace included Jan. 17 in Erie, Penn., as a part of Bishop Dwane Brock of Victory Christian Center’s call for unity and healing in the community.

“Let There Be Peace on Earth” opened an afternoon prayer service Jan. 17 included, from left, Bishop Dwane Brock of Victory Christian Center, Erie Bishop Lawrence Persico, Sheikh Mazin Alsahlani of Almakarim Islamic Foundation, Rabbi Emily Losten-Olsen of Temple Anshe Sholom, and Sister Marilyn Schauble, CSFN, of Mount Saint Benedict Monastery in Harborcreek. The event drew a couple hundred people to a monetary offering.

“The way we realize the fullness of God’s imagination,” Bishop Lawrence Persico told those in attendance, “can be done.”

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Catholic Daughters of the Americas Court Columbia 2 donated $1,000 to the students of Seton Catholic School to help with the children’s educational needs in the year ahead. Pictured, from left, are: George Cole, Adam Andrzeyko, Audella Kosti, Grace Rembit, and Catholic Daughter member Phyllis Yoder, Sue Kelly and Marine Holzer.

ERIE—Religious educators from the Northern Deanery gathered recently for their monthly meeting with Joe Streett, director of the Office of Religious Education. Pictured, in front, are: Barrett Watts, George Cole, Alex Vahey, and Catholic Daughter representative Sister Rose Kuzma, OSF. In back, are: Sue Berdis, Peter Klasno, Sister Jane Rose Kuhan, ODL, and Mary Lou Free, Cindy Zemlicka, Mary Hickin, Joe Streett, Diana Lillard, Jennifer Wortman, Lexi Hulick, an eighth-grader who won in the writing category; and Phyllis Vrobel, Sue Kelly and Marine Holzer.

CDA donates to Seton students

St. Luke School boasts three winners

MEADVILLE—Catholic Daughters of the Americas Court Colum-bia 2 donated $1,000 to the students of Seton Catholic School to help with the children’s educational needs in the year ahead. Pictured, from left, are: George Cole, Adam Andrzeyko, Audella Kosti, Grace Rembit, and Catholic Daughter member Phyllis Yoder, Sue Kelly and Marine Holzer.

Religious educators meet in Erie

Knights honored in North East

WEST MIDDLESEA—Parishioners of Good Shepherd Parish in West Middlesen are enjoying their new Altar Rose’s Mary Garden on the church grounds. The Good Shepherd Altar Rosary Society completed the two-year project in December. Megan Roberts, class of 2020, is shown tending the garden, which has been paid for through fundraisers and the sale of memorial pavers.

Garden completed at Good Shepherd

WEST MIDDLESEA—Parishioners of Good Shepherd Parish in West Middlesen are enjoying their new Altar Rose’s Mary Garden on the church grounds. The Good Shepherd Altar Rosary Society completed the two-year project in December. Megan Roberts, class of 2020, is shown tending the garden, which has been paid for through fundraisers and the sale of memorial pavers.

Garden completed at Good Shepherd

Eighth-graders help victims

ST. MARYS—Eighth-graders at St. Marys Catho-lic Middle School turned up with CAPSEA (Citizens Against Physical, Sexual and Emotional Abuse) to help those in need during the past Christmas season. CAPSEA relies on donations from the community to help those seeking refuge from abuse. Students collected a variety of items and cash donations.

Eighth-graders help victims

ERIE—Our Lady’s Christian School students raised $150 for the Highmark Caring Place on Children’s Grief Awareness Day. Students made blue butterflies to show their support and gave them as a gift to the Caring Place. Pictured are eight-graders Nicholas Fontelli, Francis Stephen Nemenz, Highmark Caring Place representative Kristie Neash, eighth-grader Abigail Bubsentz, and fifth-grader Charlie Kukowski.

OLC helps Caring Place

For Art’s Sake

ACT NOW LIHEAP IS OPEN

GET HELP PAYING YOUR HEATING BILLS.
If you need help paying your heating bills, or know someone who does, the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) can help. Applications are now being accepted. However, funds are very limited and will be distributed on a first-come, first-served basis. Don’t delay, apply now. A little help can make a big difference. For more information, or to see if you qualify, visit LIHEAPhelps.com, call 1-866-857-7095 or apply online at compass.state.pa.us.

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LIHEAPhelps.com

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The Cat's Meow Village • Custom Framing
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Religious Gifts (Guide For Art’s Sake)
Largest selection of scripture T-shirts and Decals in the area!

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