



SAINT STEPHEN CHURCH
Oil City, PA

Rectory/Chapel	210 Reed St.	677-3020
St. Stephen Church	21 State St.	Oil City
St. Venantius	403 Main St.	Rouseville
St. Stephen School	214 Reed St.	677-3035
Venango Catholic H. S.	1505 W. First St.	677-3098
Religious Education	35 Pearl Ave.	677-4004
FAX #		678-8841

SUNDAY MASS SCHEDULE

St. Stephen Church - 21 State Street, Oil City
Saturday: 5:30 pm Vigil
Sunday: 7:30 am, 9:00 am and 11:30 am
St. Venantius Church - 403 Main St., Rouseville
Sunday: 10:00 am

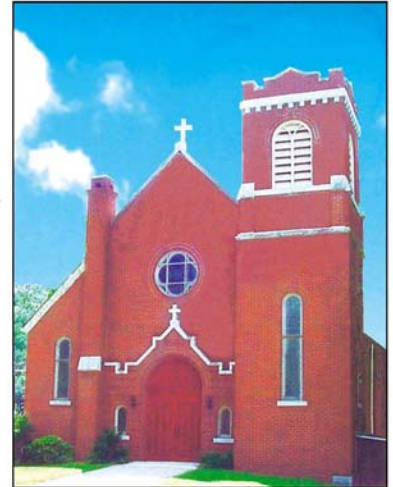
RECTORY OFFICE HOURS:

9:00 am - 4:00 pm Monday through Friday.

MASS SCHEDULE FOR THE WEEK

MONDAY	December 14, St. John of the Cross
7:00 AM	Anita & Lori Cassara (Bob & Angie Pilewski)
TUESDAY	December 15
7:00 AM	Loretta Leicht (anonymous)
WEDNESDAY	December 16
7:00 AM	Anna DeTemple (Franklin DeTemple)
THURSDAY	December 17
7:00 AM	Dorothy Rearick (Bernice Faller)
FRIDAY	December 18
7:00 AM	John J. Andres (Wife, Son & Daughter)
1:45 PM	(School) Bauer & Whitehill Families) Family
SATURDAY	December 19
7:00 AM	Kate & Larry Grieff (Pat & Ruth Nuhfer)
5:30 PM	(Vigil) Jim Sporer (Family)
SUNDAY	December 20, Fourth Sunday of Advent
7:30 AM	Florence Scholl (Marian & Doug Murphy)
9:00 AM	The Kamer Family (Family)
10:00 AM	(St. Venantius) Helen Sumosky (Sonny & Judy Buckholtz)
11:30 AM	For Members of Our Parish Community

Rev. Matthew Ruyechan, Pastor St. Stephen and Parochial Administrator, St. Venantius
Msgr. William C. ("Max") Karg, Senior Associate
Rev. Mr. Terry Schmader, Deacon
Mrs. Marge Hajduk, Principal
Mrs. Dianne Phillips, Religious Education Coordinator
Mrs. Kathy Mastalski, Confirmation Coordinator
Mr. and Mrs. Brent/Laura Blake, Youth Directors
Mrs. Tina McMahon, Advancement Council Director



SAINT VENANTIUS CHURCH
Rouseville, PA

PRAYER NETWORK:

Mary Firster (676-1219) or e-mail her at charm@cust.usachoice.net

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Baptisms on the 4th Sunday of the month. Please call the rectory to schedule an appointment for preparation sessions and Baptism.

SACRAMENT OF MATRIMONY

Couples are to contact the Pastor at least six months in advance.

SACRAMENT OF PENANCE

Saturdays at 4:00 pm at St. Stephen or by appointment.

WEBSITE

www.saint-stephens.org

BULLETIN DEADLINE:

Monday, 12:00 noon

THIS WEEKS CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SUNDAY	December 13
	2 nd Collection – Religious Retirement Fund
4:00 PM	Penance Service – St. Joseph Church
3:00 PM	Youth Group – meet at Church
MONDAY	December 14
1:00 PM	Monday Afternoon Club – School
1:30 PM	Early Dismissal – School
TUESDAY	December 15
7:00 PM	RCIA – Social Center
WEDNESDAY	December 16
7:00 PM	PENANCE SERVICE – CHURCH
THURSDAY	December 17
7:00 PM	Christmas Concert – School (Drawing for Framed Art Work)
SATURDAY	December 19
4:00 PM	Peaceful Solutions- Social Center
3-5 PM	Confessions with 2 Priests- Church

Points to ponder from Fr. Matt

John the Baptizer preached reform within people's daily round of duties. He announced the One who would baptize with the Holy Spirit.

May we not seek to attempt great feats of charity but be sensitive to our everyday obligations. May the Spirit be upon us during this holy season.

Once again I ask that you receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation during this season. There are many opportunities to show contrition, receive God's mercy, and to be at peace.

Please include St. Stephen Parish on your list of gift giving. Your generosity at Christmas time helps out tremendously. Thank you!

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 14-20

MON: Nm 24:2-17/Mt 21:23-27
TUES:..... Zep 3:1-13/Mt 21:28-32
WED:..... Is 45:6-25/Lk 7:18-23
THURS:..... Gn 49:2-10/Mt 1:1-17
FRI: Jer 23:5-8/Mt 1:18-25
SAT: Jgs 13:2-25/Lk 1:5-25
SUN:..... Mi 5:1-4/Heb 10:5-10/Lk 1:39-45

FAMILY PERSPECTIVE: When the crowds in today's gospel asked "What shall we do?" the Baptist was very clear: share! Resist giving token obligatory Christmas gifts. Instead consider sharing your own good tidings with those less fortunate than yourselves. Nothing compares with the feeling you get when you live the gospel by sharing with the poor.



GIFT IDEAS: The Rosary Society has some items that would make wonderful Christmas presents. There are bells for \$9 each, plates for \$15 and hanging ornaments for \$8 each with our church on the front. Stop by the rectory during normal hours to purchase.

SPECIAL THANKS to Boy Scout Troop 11 for the beautiful wreaths donated to the school and rectory.



PLEASE REMEMBER our Seminarians in your prayers this Christmas Season. Below is their address's if you would like to send greetings for the holidays: Chris Barnes, co/ St. Vincent Seminary, 300 Frazier-Purchase Road, Latrobe, PA 15650: Matthew Strickenberger, c/o St. Mary's Seminary, 5400 Roland Ave., Baltimore, MD 21210 and Wesley Wheeler c/o St. Mark Seminary, 429 E. Grandview Blvd., P.O. Box 10397, Erie, PA 16514. I'm sure they would enjoy hearing from members of our St. Venantius and St. Stephen's.

SERVERS FOR – DECEMBER 19-20

5:30 Amanda/Erica Wassil
7:30 Andrew Evans, Joe Hopwood
9:00 Christopher, Daniel, Nicholas Fink
11:30 Jennifer Flannigan, Lena Wheeler

LECTORS FOR – DECEMBER 19-20

5:30 Sue Williams 9:00 Cindy Urban
7:30 Mike Horos 11:30 Ann Scopetti

EUCARIST MINISTERS FOR – DECEMBER 19-20

5:30 Mareeta Durney, Donna Goodman, Sandra Kerchner, Tom McNellie, Carol Sundo
7:30 Diana Staab, Kathy Trypus
9:00 Donna/Joseph Jones, Joyce Morgan, Sandra Schmader, Ray Stiglitz
11:30 Felicia Nelson, Kathryn Ostroske, Doris Pickens, Barb Plummer, Karen Shepard

THE PEOPLE IN OUR PARISH:

OUR SYMPATHY & PRAYERS are offered for *Anna Mae Guth* who died recently. Please pray for the consolation of her loved ones.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS those who are sick, in nursing homes or hospitalized as well as those who serve us in the military.

SPONSOR OF THE WEEK: Our bulletin sponsor of the week is *CS Technology Plus, Complete Technology Solutions, located 2803 State Rt. 257 in Seneca.* Please patronize our sponsors and let them know you appreciate their support. They defray the cost of our bulletins every week!

A DONATION TO THE 2ND CENTURY FUND was made for *John T. Wasil* by Richard & Elizabeth Wassil; Jane Fedorek and Emma J. Wassil & Family.

A DONATION to the School was made by Tillie Hinds.

SERVANTS OF ST. STEPHEN:



Eucharistic Ministers for the homebound, are reminded to call ahead before taking the Eucharist so they know who and when to expect a visit. Thank you for providing this important ministry to those unable to get to church.

THE 2ND COLLECTION this weekend will be for the care of our retired priests, brothers and sisters who have served the Church in our area and through the U.S. An envelope for *Religious Retirement* was included in your monthly packet.

THE FOOD COLLECTION on the third Sunday of each month is given to the St. Elizabeth Center. Please bring your items to church next weekend and place them in the blue bins provided at the entrances.



2009 CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS will be tabulated and processed in the first weeks of the New Year. If you received a statement last year, you will automatically receive one this year. **ALSO**, if you received one last year and don't want/need one this year, please call the rectory by January 15 (677-3020).

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT



ADVENT PENANCE CELEBRATIONS begin TODAY (Sunday-13th) at 4 p.m. at St. Joseph Church. St. Stephen Church will have their Penance Service Wednesday (16th) at 7 p.m. and St. Patrick's

in Franklin will have their Service next Sunday (21st) at 4 p.m. NOTE: There will be 2 priests hearing confessions next Saturday, December 19 from 3-5 p.m.

JESSE TREE – Special thanks to those who took an angel from the tree. Remember to wrap your gift with the angel tag on the outside and return it next Sunday, December 20 (BY NOON). Gifts will be delivered that afternoon. PLEASE help us by having your gift to church on time. IF your angel does not have a suggestion listed, that means there are no specific requests. Those that do list a suggestion hope you will find the information helpful in trying to choose an appropriate gift.

VOLUNTEERS are needed to help deliver the gifts. This would be a great family project of count toward service hours for students either in Confirmation or school that are looking to fulfill their hours. Call Sharon at 676-0735.

THE YOUTH GROUP will be shopping today (13th) from 3-6 p.m. Students should meet at the church with permission slips which are required to attend. A Christmas party will follow.



RELIGIOUS ED: Our annual **Child Protection In-service** for students in grades **P/K** through **Gr. 8** will take place at our **December 20th** class. Once again, we will be using age-appropriate videos from the Erie Diocese. Students who will not be participating in this mandated in-service will be working on an Advent project.

MONDAY AFTERNOON CLUB meets the 14th at 1 p.m. at school.

RCIA meets Tuesday, December 15 at 7 p.m. in the Social Center.

CHRISTMAS FLOWER envelopes are in your December packet. Please return them no later than Sunday, December 20 if you would like them included in the Christmas flyer.

TICKETS for the framed photograph of "The Nativity" (23 in x 40 in) in stained glass are available for \$2/each or 3/\$5. Tickets will be sold after all Masses this weekend or at the rectory during business hours. Remember the drawing is DECEMBER 17 at the school Christmas concert.

ATTENTION EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS: VOLUNTEERS are needed to take Communion to TCU/REHAB on the 1st or 4th Wednesday of the month. If you can help once/month, please call Jan at 676-1242.

BULLETIN NOTICES for events during the upcoming holiday season should be sent in this week (by Wednesday, December 16) since our publishers require early deadlines.



A VOLUNTEER is needed to take Communion to the homebound on the 4th Sunday. If you are not currently a Eucharistic Minister, someone will train you to take Communion and visit parishioners unable to get to church. If you can help or have any questions, please call Tina at 676-0443.

ST. STEPHEN SCHOOL NEWS

Students will be dismissed early Monday (1:30 p.m.), December 14.

The VCHS Bell Choir will perform Monday 11:10-12 noon.

Thanks to all who supported the Santa Breakfast December 5. The winner of the panoramic photo of Oil City by Jerry Sowden was won by Peggy Weiser.

Join us for a Christmas Concert this Thursday, December 17 at 7 p.m. in the school gym. This will be the last opportunity for the Santa Shop and Book Fair. Come enjoy and catch the holiday spirit. Don't forget the winner of *the framed photograph of the Nativity* will be drawn at the Concert.

Send in your tickets stubs for the Big Raffle (with your money), to the school OR return in the collection basket marked "BIG RAFFLE". Extra tickets are available at the school or rectory during business hours. Cost is \$ \$10 a ticket or 3 for \$25. We appreciate your support to one of the schools biggest fundraising projects.

Join us for Mass this Friday (18th) at 1:45 p.m. at the school.

VCHS NEWS

Mass this Friday at 11 a.m. in the Chapel. All are welcome.

Boys basketball: Monday (14) at home vs. Rocky Grove; Wednesday, 12/16 vs. Moniteau. Games begin at 6 p.m.

Girls basketball: Monday (14) at Rocky Grove 12/17.

The Booster Club is sponsoring a **raffle** for 4 tickets to the Penguin game 1/31/10 (3 p.m.) vs. Detroit Red Wings. A parking pass, \$100 Visa gift card (to cover gas/food) and a Penguins gift basket is included. Tickets are \$3 each or 4/\$10. The drawing will be held 12/21. Get tickets at VCHS, or Oil City or Franklin Chamber.

PA FOR HUMAN LIFE is again sponsoring a bus to the 37th annual March for Life, Friday, January 22. Paid reservations must be made by January 1. Cost is \$40 per seat. For reservations or questions, please call Judy Anderton at 676-6288.

ASSUMPTION BVM: Please join us for the Divine Mercy Chaplet, Eucharistic Adoration and Benediction Wednesday, December 16 at 7:07 p.m. at the church to pray for our priests in the year of the priest.

BIG BROTHERS/BIG SISTERS is in need of volunteers mentors in our area. If you have just a few hours each month to spend enhancing the life of a child, please contact Family Service & Children's Aid Society at 676-9940.

HOSPICE VOLUNTEER TRAINING will be offered free of charge by ASERA CARE HOSPICE. For more information on becoming a hospice volunteer, please contact Meg Maly at 1-800-314-5145 or e-mail her at Margaret.maly@aseracare.com.

TRAVEL WITH MSGR. KARG on a 12 day visit to cities in the heart of Europe and see the famous "Passion Play" in Oberammergau. Tour leaves New York September 14, 2010. Cost is \$3,799 (from NY). Please contact Msgr. for more details.

PEACEFUL SOLUTIONS Prayer group will meet Saturday, December 19 from 4-4:30 p.m. in the social center. Come join others in prayer for peace.

Be Patient, wait for the Lord, and He will Surely grant you the greatest gift of all: THE GIFT OF LOVE.