

Who needs two?
Details on tickets to papal Masses,
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BI-WEEKLY NEWS BULLETIN OF THE DIOCESE OF ERIE

January 27, 2008

Helping others

Mercyhurst Prep
student receives
philanthropy award,
page 4.



Church Calendar

Events of the local, American and universal church

Feast days



The Presentation
of the Lord

St. Blaise

Jan. 26	Ss. Timothy & Titus
Jan. 27	St. Angela Merici
Jan. 28	St. Thomas Aquinas
Jan. 31	St. John Bosco
Feb. 2	The Presentation of the Lord
Feb. 3	St. Blaise, St. Ansgar
Feb. 5	St. Agatha
Feb. 6	Ash Wednesday, St. Paul Miki & Companions
Feb. 8	St. Jerome Emiliani, St. Josephine Bakhita
Feb. 10	St. Scholastica

World Day for Consecrated Life – Feb. 3

"Indeed, just as Jesus' life in his obedience and dedication to the Father is a living parable of the 'God-with-us,' so the concrete dedication of consecrated persons to God and to their brethren becomes an eloquent sign for today's world of the presence of God's Kingdom."
— Pope Benedict XVI, speaking on World Day for Consecrated Life

Ash Wednesday – Feb. 6

At Masses on this day, the celebrating priest marks the forehead of each participant with black ashes in the shape of a cross. The symbolism echoes the ancient tradition of placing ashes on one's head signifying repentance before God. While distributing the ashes, the priest may offer an instruction such as "Remember that you are dust and unto dust you shall return" or "Turn away from sin and be faithful to the Gospel."

The ashes are prepared by burning palm leaves from the previous Palm Sunday. In the Roman Catholic Church, Ash Wednesday is observed by fasting, abstaining from meat and repentance.

Rite of Election – Feb. 10

Candidates and catechumens participating in the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) program at their respective parishes in the diocese will celebrate the Rite of Election on Sun., Feb. 10, the first Sunday of Lent. The Rite of election will be celebrated at 3 p.m. at two sites: St. Peter Cathedral in Erie and St. Tobias in Brockway.

All new members of the Catholic Church will be received into their own parishes at the Easter Vigil on April 22.

The Rite of Election formally acknowledges the readiness of those preparing to receive the sacraments of initiation—baptism, confirmation and the Eucharist.

Clergy appointments



The Most Rev. Donald W. Trautman, STD, SSL, Bishop of Erie, announces the following diocesan appointments:

Father Thomas Moderny, appointed a priest in residence at St. Catherine of Sienna Parish, DuBois. Effective January 17, 2008.

Father Edward Krause, C.S.C., appointed co-chaplain for the Congregation of the Sisters of the Divine Spirit for a term of five years. Effective January 14, 2008.

Father Philip Oriole, appointed chaplain at the Erie County Prison for a term of three years. Effective January 4, 2008.

Father Casimir Wozniak, appointed co-chaplain for the Congregation of the Sisters of the Divine Spirit for a term of five years. Effective January 14, 2008.

FaithLife

Catholic Schools Week

By Jason Koshinski
FaithLife editor

Kathy Griser has two children who attend Catholic schools—a sixth and an eighth-grader at Our Lady of Peace School in Erie. They've been going there since preschool. "My husband and I both went to Catholic school," Griser said. "He's an OLP grad. We never really considered anything else because in addition to the quality of education they are receiving, learning about Christ is a part of their everyday life. We thought it would make them more well rounded individuals."

Griser is one of many parent volunteers throughout the diocese trying to help their schools get ready for Catholic Schools Week Jan. 27-Feb. 2. For more than 30 years, the nation's Catholic schools have spent the last week of January celebrating their contribution to communities, recalling what makes Catholic education special.

The 2008 theme is "Catholic Schools Light the Way" which highlights the mission of Catholic schools to provide a faith-based education that supports the whole child academically and spiritually and prepares students for future success.

Across the country, schools will observe the week with special Masses, community service projects, academic and artistic showcases and athletic and family events. Many schools will hold open houses so that community members can learn more about the value of Catholic education.

Nearly 2.4 million students attend the nation's 7,800 elementary, middle and secondary Catholic schools. In the Erie Diocese, more than 9,000 students attend one of 40 Catholic elementary, middle

See CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK, page 2

Our Lady of Lourdes turns 150

Pope OKs plenary indulgence for Marian anniversary

By Jason Koshinski
FaithLife editor

Fran Greathouse remembers the tornado that destroyed her church like it was yesterday. "I remember it well. It was a muggy, horrible day," said Greathouse, a member of Our Lady of Lourdes in Cochranton. "The sky was really strange. The TV wasn't working right and there were all these birds out in the yard. It was just really strange."

Her husband was out in the yard and heard a noise that sounded like a train. She gathered her three children in the basement just before the lights went out.

Then the phone rang. "The electricity was out, but for some reason the phone was working," Greathouse said.

The voice on the other end informed her that a tornado had hit the church.

"We jumped in the car and went there," she said, "and immediately I started to cry."

The Cochranton church, under the patronage of Our Lady of Lourdes, was destroyed by a tornado on May 31, 1858. The only thing left untouched by the tornado's path was a statue of Our Lady

of Lourdes. The same statue stands in front of the current church, which was dedicated on May 31, 1987, exactly two years after the disaster.

Overcoming the adversity of losing its church, the faith community of Cochranton has been strengthened by the experience.

"With the experience of the tornado, the focus of Our Lady of Lourdes' patronage certainly came to strengthen and clarify when that statue was preserved," said Father Dennis Veltri, pastor of Our Lady of Lourdes, the mission church of St. Hippolyte Parish in Frenchtown.

This year, the church throughout the world marks the 150th anniversary of the Marian apparitions at Lourdes, France. Beginning Feb. 11, 1858, Mary appeared on 18 different occasions in a cave near Lourdes to St. Bernadette Soubirous, a 14-year-old peasant girl.

The Crawford County church, located 11 miles south of Frenchtown, will celebrate a nine-day novena to Our Lady of Lourdes each day leading up to the Feb. 11 feast day. The novena will begin at 7:30 p.m. each evening starting Sunday, Feb. 2, along with a rosary. A special feast day Mass will



Pilgrims pray in front of the grotto at the Marian shrine of Lourdes in southwest France. The grotto marks the spot where St. Bernadette saw visions of Mary in 1858.

St. Patrick's Day on March 13?

Several feasts move because of early Easter

By Jason Koshinski
FaithLife editor

Several church feast days are moving this year because of an early Easter.

In his Lenten regulations for 2008, Bishop Donald Trautman explained the transfer of several feast days so they would not conflict with Holy Week.

Traditionally St. Patrick and all things Irish are celebrated March 17. However, in 2008, March 17 falls on the Monday of Holy Week and, according to church law, the days of Holy Week and Easter rank above all others, so the feast of St. Patrick must be moved to another date. In the Erie Diocese, the feast of St. Patrick will be commemorated on March 13. St. Patrick is the patron saint of the diocese.

Also, the Solemnity of St. Joseph, traditionally celebrated March 19, is moved to March 15 and the Solemnity of the Annunciation, commemorated annually March 25, is moved to March 31.

In 2008, if the feast of St. Joseph were to be celebrated March 19 as usual, it would fall on the Wednesday of Holy Week, and if the feast of the Annunciation of the Lord were to be celebrated March 25, it would fall on the Tuesday during the octave of Easter.

While the two feasts are among the 14 solemnities marked with special care in the Catholic Church, they do not take precedence over the commemoration of Christ's suffering, death and resurrection, the Vatican said.

Lenten regulations for 2008

The season of Lent begins this year on Ash Wednesday, February 6 and concludes when the Paschal Triduum of the passion, death and resurrection of the Lord begins prior to the start of the Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday, March 20.

The following regulations are promulgated and binding for all Latin Rite Catholics in the Diocese of Erie for Lent and the Paschal Triduum, 2008. Eastern Rite Catholics who may be attending Latin Rite parishes have their own proper regulations and should consult their own eparchy or parish.

1. Traditional Lenten practices of PRAYER, FASTING, and ALMSGIVING and other forms of self-denial are recommended most warmly by the Church.
2. The faithful observance of Lent should manifest itself especially in the imitation of Christ in daily life and in the readiness to sacrifice time and talent whenever possible in personal, parish and community efforts on behalf of those in spiritual or material need. The spiritual hunger of the unchurched locally and in mission lands can be the focus of prayer and charitable giving.
3. **ASH WEDNESDAY** and **GOOD FRIDAY** are days of abstinence from meat for those 14 years of age and older. They are also days of fasting for those ages 18 to 58 inclusive. (Those bound by the law of fasting may take one full meal. 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.)
4. **ALL FRIDAYS IN LENT** are days of abstinence from meat for those 14 years of age and older. In their planning for observances, organizations and individuals are requested to offer meatless alternatives for Catholics in attendance.
5. **ALL FRIDAYS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR** (except solemnities) outside of Lent remain days of penance. The United States bishops highly recommend the traditional abstinence from meat, together with fasting, for the cause of peace in the world. However, some other practice of voluntary self-denial or personal penance may be substituted.
6. All feast days of the saints are omitted every year from Palm Sunday to the conclusion of the Easter Octave. Therefore, in order to provide for their celebration during the year 2008, the liturgical observance of the Solemnity of St. Joseph is moved to March 15, of the Solemnity of the Annunciation is moved to March 31, and of the Feast of St. Patrick (diocesan patron) is moved to March 13.

By order of the Most Reverend Bishop, Donald W. Trautman

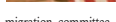
Catholic News Service contributed to this story.



By the Way...

IN THE U.S.

■ **The immediate future looks a bit grim** for those trying to improve the lot of immigrants in the United States. Presidential candidates are trying to outdo each other in espousing harsher approaches to handling illegal immigration. There's essentially no chance of a comprehensive immigration bill moving through Congress until after the presidential election in November. But Bishop John C. Wester of Salt Lake City, the new chairman of the U.S. bishops' migration committee, is optimistic that the church's faith-based position on aiding immigrants will eventually win the day — changing hearts and attitudes in the United States. "It's about building bridges, not building fences," he said, summarizing the approach he believes the U.S. needs to resolve the tangled mess of immigration laws, policies and human situations.



Jason Koshinski

AROUND THE WORLD

■ **Ordaining married men** is not a guaranteed way to solve a vocations crisis, and it will not automatically improve the quality of priests, said Cardinal Lubomyr Husar of Kiev-Halych, head of the Ukrainian Catholic Church. "The quality of the priest does not depend on whether or not he is married," the cardinal said in a Jan. 4 interview. The cardinal, whose Eastern-rite church ordains married men, spoke about the Ukrainian bishops' decision to proclaim 2008 "The Year of the Christian Vocation." "We are not limiting ourselves to vocations to religious life and the priesthood, but are focusing on the Christian concept of vocation," he said. "We have seen a serious instability both in the family and in

religious life." The rate of separation and divorce, as well as the rate of priests and religious asking to be released from their vows, has increased, the cardinal said.

■ **The Vatican is preparing to issue a set of instructions** to promote "greater caution and more accuracy" in the opening of new sainthood causes by local dioceses, a top Vatican official said. Cardinal Jose Saraiva Martins, head of the Congregation for Saints' Causes, said the instructions were needed to reflect the "new spirit introduced by Pope Benedict XVI in beatification procedures." Cardinal Saraiva Martins said the new document will be addressed to all resident bishops, instructing them on procedures regarding the opening and advancement of sainthood causes. It will underline how the "theology of the local church" is manifested in such causes, he said.

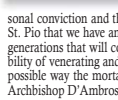
■ **Before the tomb of their founder, St. Ignatius of Loyola**, 225 Jesuits prayed that God would be present with them as they elect a new superior general and that he would make his will known to them. The Jesuits' General Congregation opened Jan. 7 with Mass in Rome's Church of the Gesù, which houses the tomb of St. Ignatius. At the end of the Mass, the current superior, Father Peter-Hans Kolvenbach, 79, lit an oil lamp before the founder's tomb and led his confreres in reciting St. Ignatius' "Suscipe" prayer. Spanish-born Father Adolfo Nicolas, SJ, was elected the new superior general of the Jesuits Jan. 19.

■ **Turkey's Catholic bishops** marked the 2,000th anniversary year of the birth of St. Paul in the southern Turkish city of Tarsus and outlined preparations for the Pauline year. "This event is for all Christian communities, since Paul is a teacher for all the disciples of Christ. However, the anniversary is of particular importance for us living in Turkey, the apostle of the gentiles is a son of this land, and it is here he exercised most of his ministry," said a letter from the bishops' conference, which ops of Turkey's Armenian, Syrian, Chaldean and Latin-rite churches. Pope Benedict XVI convoked 2008-09 as a special Pauline year of events marking the anniversary of the saint's birth. The pope said the celebrations should have a special ecumenical character.



PEOPLE OF FAITH

■ **The body of St. Pio** (Padre Pio) will be exhumed, studied and displayed for public veneration from mid-April to late September, said the archbishop who oversees the shrine where the saint is buried. Archbishop Domenico D'Ambrosio, papal delegate for the shrine in San Giovanni Rotondo, Italy, announced that he and the Capuchin friars of Padre Pio's community had decided it was important to verify the condition of the saint's body and find a way to ensure its preservation. "It is my personal conviction and that of the confreres of St. Pio that we have an obligation to give the generations that will come after us the possibility of venerating and preserving in the best possible way the mortal remains of St. Pio," Archbishop D'Ambrosio said.



According to Mary Meyer, director of development for St. Marys Catholic Elementary and Middle Schools, there is a lot of guessing going on in the community as to the identity of the donor couple who will match the community's donations dollar for dollar up to \$1 million during its current capital campaign. "It's been the water cooler talk of the town since it was announced at Masses a couple weeks ago," Meyer said. "People are trying really hard to figure out who it is."



Jason Koshinski

The couple, who has asked to remain anonymous for the duration of the capital campaign, will make themselves known April 18 at a benefit dinner for the schools at Red Fern in St. Marys. "They don't want people to give or not to give because of who they are." Whoever they are, they are certainly helping to secure the future of Catholic education in the St. Marys area.

This month marks the 35th anniversary of the Roe v. Wade Supreme Court decision which legalized abortion.

Both the birth rate and the abortion rate increased in Pennsylvania in 2006, according to figures released by the Pennsylvania Department of Health.

Births in the commonwealth in 2006 totaled 148,703, up from 145,033 in 2005. The rise in births appears to mirror a national trend. In 2006, 4.3 million babies were born in the U.S.—the most births in 45 years. Meanwhile, abortions in Pennsylvania rose to 36,731, a 5.2 increase over the 2005 total.

People for Life, an affiliate of the Pennsylvania Pro-Life Federation, will hold its 30th annual Pro-Life Prayer Breakfast at 9 a.m. on Saturday, Feb. 2 at the Avalon Hotel in downtown Erie.

This year's keynote speaker is Janet Folger, founder and president of Faith 2 Action, a pro-life and family values organization based in Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.

Reservations can be made at either People for Life office: The Professional Building at 1611 Peach St., Suite 321 from 9-5 Monday through Friday or the main office at 1625 W. 26th St. Call 814.459.1333 for exact hours.

For more information, visit www.peopleforlife.org. "World Marriage Day," traditionally acknowledged on the second Sunday in February, will be sponsored on Feb. 10 by World-wide Marriage Encounter. "World Marriage Day" honors husband and wife as head of the family and "salutes the beauty of their faithfulness, sacrifice and joy in daily married life." Visit <http://wmd.wmwe.org> for more details.

Jason Koshinski is editor of FaithLife. Contact him at JKoshinski@ErieRCD.org or 814.824.1171.

**Who needs two?
Details on tickets to papal
Masses remain sketchy**

From staff and wire reports

WASHINGTON — Your chance of getting a ticket to Pope Benedict XVI's April 20 Mass at Yankee Stadium might depend on whether you live in a diocese close to the Archdiocese of New York or in one of the nation's oldest archdioceses.

Or it might just come down to sheer luck. The precise formula that will be used to distribute tickets to the Yankee Stadium Mass and other events during the pope's April 15-20 visit to Washington and New York has not yet been made public, but some details are emerging.

Dioceses across the country have been posting notices on their Web sites about how to request tickets for the papal Mass at Yankee Stadium, which holds 65,000 people, and an April 17 Mass at Nationals Park in Washington, which will seat up to 45,000 people for the event.

But the various notices make one thing clear: If your opportunity to request a ticket has not already passed, it will soon.

The New York office extended the deadline for dioceses to submit ticket requests until Jan. 15 and said the heads of dioceses would receive information about their ticket allocation during the week of Jan. 21. Each bishop will distribute the tickets "at his discretion," the New York Archdiocese said.

For those living within the New York Archdiocese, tickets will be distributed in the parishes. "Pastors will receive detailed information regarding ticket allocations and distribution by the end of January," the papal visit office said. The office also is distributing tickets for the pope's April 19 meeting with young people and seminarians at St. Joseph's Seminary in New York. Those will be allocated "through Catholic schools, parish catechetical programs, par-



ish youth groups, seminarians, etc., in the Archdiocese of New York and other dioceses in the immediate New York metropolitan area."

Fewer details are available about ticket distribution for Pope Benedict's only event open to the public in Washington, the Mass at Nationals Park.

The new home of the Washington Nationals baseball team is designed to hold 41,222 people but organizers found that, by locating the altar in center field rather than at second base as originally planned, an additional 4,000 people could be accommodated.

Catholics from three archdioceses that share with the Archdiocese of New York the distinction of marking their 200th anniversary this year will get special treatment at the Yankee Stadium Mass. The archdioceses of Boston, Philadelphia and Louisville, Ky., will be honored at the Mass, along with the nation's first diocese, the Archdiocese of Baltimore.

All tickets for residents of the Erie Diocese for the papal Masses must be obtained through the chancery Father Ed Lohse, chancellor of the diocese, confirmed that the diocese has requested 400 tickets for the papal Mass at Yankee Stadium. However, no diocese is guaranteed tickets, Father Lohse said. "We should receive word this

week as to whether we will receive any tickets, and if so, how many," he said.

No tickets will be available to the Erie Diocese for the papal Mass in Washington, D.C., or the youth event in New York City on April 19.

The diocese is taking requests on a first-come, first-served basis but cannot guarantee any tickets at this time.

At this point, all new requests will go on a waiting list, since requests have already exceeded the 400 tickets which the diocese requested from New York.

There is no cost for the tickets. Parishes or groups interested in tickets should contact the chancery at 1.800.374.3723 Ext. 135 or 814.824.1135 or e-mail chancery@eriecd.org. It is likely that by Feb. 1 or shortly thereafter all ticket-holders will need to supply their name, address and date of birth, as required by the New York City Police Department and the United States Secret Service. The diocese has been informed that tickets will be non-transferable.

Catholic Schools Week

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK, from page 1

and secondary schools. Grister is helping the school get ready for its open house and the launch of a new preschool program for 2008-09 which will now provide alternative care for parents who need full day care for their children.

"Truly what I find as part of having your children in Catholic school is you have to be willing to give part of yourself to the school," she said. "We have many parents here who give back a lot. The more involved the parents are, the stronger a school becomes. Catholic schools are stewardship."

Mary Meyer, the director of development at St. Marys Catholic Elementary and Middle Schools, is spearheading an endeavor that will help secure the future of Catholic education in the St. Marys area.

Three years ago, the area school board developed a long-term strategic plan. One item that came forward from it stated that if they were going to secure the future of their schools, endowed funds needed to be part of the equation.

In visiting people and promoting the schools' \$1.3 million endowment, the interest of one particular couple was clearly piqued. They asked Meyer what was the largest gift she had received. After she told them it was \$500,000, the couple responded with an offer. They said they would give \$1 million and they would like the community to match it. For now, the couple wishes to remain anonymous.

"They're a very strong faith-filled family," Meyer said. "They believe in Catholic education and believe the foundation for the

Did You Know?

Of 2007's 720 eighth grade Catholic school graduates in the Erie Diocese, nearly 70 percent (491) went on to Catholic high school in the fall.

Source: Catholic Schools Office

church will come through Catholic schools."

On April 18, the board of education will hold a benefit dinner at Red Fern in St. Marys, where the donor couple will be announced.

In the meantime, Meyer finds herself in the middle of a capital campaign.

"If we are at the million dollar point, they'll give us a check at that time," she said.

The board is asking for a three-year commitment from donors. "That's a wonderful opportunity because they might give more knowing they have three years to fulfill it," Meyer said.

The announcement of the campaign was received with enthusiasm at St. Marys Masses two weeks ago.

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FaithLife
The official news bulletin of the Catholic Diocese of Erie
Volume 4, Issue 2
General Information: (814) 824-1161
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Editorial: (814) 824-1171
Advertising: (814) 824-1168

Member of the Catholic Press Association.
Published bi-weekly. Owned and operated by the Bishop of Erie.
Subscription \$10/year.
For more information, call (814) 824-1161.

The Office of Communications has been serving Catholics in the Diocese of Erie since 1974. Offices are located at St. Mark Catholic Center, 429 East Grandview Blvd., Erie, Pa. Periodical postage paid at Erie, Pa.

Postmaster: Send address changes to FaithLife at St. Mark Catholic Center.

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Briefly

WHY CATHOLIC?

JOURNEY THROUGH THE CATECHISM focuses on prayer during Lent

Parishioners in the Erie Diocese will be delving deeper into their prayer lives through *Why Catholic?* during Lent.

The third year of *Why Catholic?* is set to begin at 50 parishes throughout the 13-county diocese with the discussion of "Christian Prayer—Deepening My Experience of God."

Why Catholic? is a four-year program that focuses on Scripture related to the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*. Small faith-sharing groups at participating parishes meet once a week during two six-week sessions each year. The first session of year three will begin at most parishes the first week of Lent. Ash Wednesday is Feb. 6.

Approximately 5,000 people participated in *Why Catholic?* last year in the Erie Diocese.

Why Catholic? sign-ups are going on in parishes now. Contact your parish if you would like to be part of a small faith-sharing group. If your parish is not participating in *Why Catholic?* and you would still like to participate, contact Sister Nancy Fischer, SSI, director of community formation and lay minister training for the diocese, at 814.824.1217 or e-mail NFischer@ErieCD.org.

NOVA, prep for re-marriage, is Feb. 2

ERIE – NOVA is a one-day marriage preparation program designed for couples planning re-marriage in the Catholic Church. The next NOVA session is Saturday, Feb. 2 in Erie. Registration is required. Call the Family Life Office at 1.800.374.3723 Ext. 261 or 814.824.1261 or visit www.ErieCD.org/familylifeoffice.asp for more information.

Rainbows, healing program for children, begins Feb. 11

Rainbows, a program for children and their parents who are experiencing loss from divorce or separation, consists of 12 weekly peer support group meetings. The next session begins Monday, Feb. 11 from 7-8 p.m. at St. Mark Catholic Center, 429 E. Grandview Blvd. in Erie.

For more information or to make a reservation, call 814.824.1253.

Engagement Encounter weekend Feb. 15-17

Attention engaged couples: Planning your wedding in 2008? An Engagement Encounter weekend is scheduled for Feb. 15-17 at McKee Learning Center in Sandy Lake (approximately two hours from Clearfield, Kane or St. Marys).

Contact the Family Life Office at 1.800.374.3723 Ext. 261 or visit www.ErieCD.org/familylifeoffice.asp to register or for more information.

Engagement Encounter satisfies diocesan requirements for marriage preparation. Partial scholarships are available.

Retroville weekend Feb. 29-March 2

Retroville is a program designed to help heal hurting marriages. Learn ways to heal and strengthen your relationship at Retroville, a weekend that gives marriages a new chance. Reservations are being accepted for the next weekend, Feb. 29-March 2 in Erie. Retroville is sponsored by Catholic Charities. For confidential information, call 1.800.470.2230.

Scheduled Days of Reflection

March 15: The Splendor of The Ordinary
April 12: Accepting and Entending The Mercy of God
May 10: Living in The Providence of God

To schedule Retreats (Private or Group) Call the Retreat Center (814) 438-7020

Avila Retreat Center
61 East High St.
Union City PA 16438



People for Life EVENT



30th Annual PRO-LIFE Prayer Breakfast

Keynote Speaker: **JANET FOLGER**
Author, *WorldNetDaily* Columnist, Radio Host, Dynamic Pro-Life Leader

February 2, 2008
9 am at the Avalon Hotel
Music by SELAH PRAISE BAND
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Reservations: \$10.00, Ages 3-10: \$7.50
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P.O. Box 1126, Erie, PA 16512
or stop at either of our locations:
1625 West 26th St., Erie or 1611 Peach St., Suite 321 (Alternative Choices for Women)

For more information, call 814-882-1333 or visit www.peopleforlife.org.

Our Lady of Lourdes turns 150

LOURDES from page 1

be celebrated at 7:30 p.m. Feb. 11, with a reception following in the church social hall. All events are open to the public.

"After the disaster, we felt like we had to draw together," said Greathouse, who has helped organize the novena. "It was a hard thing to do because there were so many hurts. The fact that the statue stayed gave us faith. We knew that God and Mary were with us."

The parish has changed a lot since then. While some people have moved away, others have joined the faith community including some from the Pittsburgh area.

"We're trying to re-establish who we are," Greathouse said. "The Lourdes celebration is an opportunity to do that. Hopefully people will see this as a time to renew a sense of community and reaffirm our beliefs."

The jubilee year began in Lourdes on Dec. 8, 2007, the feast of the Immaculate Conception, and will run through Dec. 8, 2008.

Vatican officials have confirmed Pope Benedict XVI will visit the Shrine of Our Lady of Lourdes in France to mark the anniversary, but the exact time period of the papal visit is not yet known.

To mark the anniversary, the pope has authorized a special indulgence to encourage renewed holiness.

Catholics can receive a plenary indulgence for taking part in any public or private devotion to Our Lady of Lourdes.

An indulgence is a remission of the temporal punishment due for sins committed. A plenary indulgence is the remission of all punishment. The indulgence can also be applied to the souls of the faithful in purgatory.

Catholics can receive the indulgence during two time frames. The plenary indulgence can be obtained by the faithful year round in Lourdes and also between Feb. 2-11 in any church (or campus or churchyard) before an image of Our Lady of Lourdes.

Four suggestions in the Erie Diocese are:

- At the grotto on the campus of Mercyhurst College in Erie.
- The yard of the former Villa Maria Motherhouse on West Ninth Street & Plum in Erie.

LOURDES
Place of Prayer and Hope

This site of pilgrimage in southern France became popular after St. Bernadette reported visions of Mary at the grotto more than a century ago.

- 1 Basilica of the Immaculate Conception**
Constructed between 1868 and 1872 to fulfill Mary's request for a chapel in her name.
- 2 Basilica of St. Pius X**
Designed by architect Pierre Jeanneret in the early 1900s. It was burned in 1918, consecrated March 25, 1918.
- 3 Accueil Notre-Dame**
Hospitality house with 600 beds for sick or disabled pilgrims.
- 4 Grotto of Massabielle**
Mary appears to Bernadette Soubirous 18 times between February and July of 1858. Only visible to Bernadette. Mary identified herself as the Immaculate Conception.
- 5 Sacred Water**
Mary instructs Bernadette to bathe and drink from a miraculous spring on Feb. 24, 1858. Millions of pilgrims have since sought healing by the same water.
- 6 Church of St. Bernadette**
Instituted in 1900. This modern church accommodates 2,000 people.

SHRINE STATS

- Reverend Fathers: 60
- Permanent Chaplains: 30
- Phases of Ministry: 22
- Annual Pilgrims: 2.5 million
- Annual Budget: \$20 million

www.lourdes2008.com

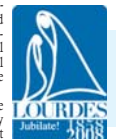
Our Lady of Lourdes church in Cochranton

St. Bernadette church in Saegertown, a mission of St. Agatha Parish in Meadville.

To obtain the special indulgence one must fulfill the normal requirements set by the church for all plenary indulgences; these include going to confession within 20 days before or after, receiving the Eucharist and praying for the intentions of the pope, all in a spirit of total detachment from the attraction of sin.

In addition, those seeking the plenary indulgence must also pray the Lord's Prayer, the creed and the special jubilee prayer or a prayer to Mary.

Catholics who cannot visit Lourdes or join a communal service dedicated to Our Lady of Lourdes because of illness or other serious reason could still earn the indulgence in their own home or wherever they are Feb. 2-11.



Our Lady of Lourdes revealed herself as the Immaculate Conception, asked that a chapel be built on the site of the vision and told St. Bernadette to drink from a fountain in the grotto.

No fountain was to be seen, but when St. Bernadette dug at a spot designated by the apparition, a spring began to flow. The water from this still flowing spring has shown remarkable healing power, though it contains no curative property that science can identify.

Lourdes has become the most famous modern shrine of Our Lady and is visited by more than 5 million pilgrims and visitors each year.

Bishop Jacques Perrier of Tarbes and Lourdes said the apparitions still "nourish the church" today. He said Lourdes continues to contribute to the mission of the church and spread the Gospel in the world.

Further details of the 150th anniversary of the Marian apparitions at Lourdes can be found online at www.lourdes2008.com

Catholic News Service contributed to this story.

Lenten Dinners

FISH & PIEROGI

Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish
Scheffler Hall
1553 E. Grandview Blvd., Erie, PA
February 15, 29 & March 14
4:00-7:00 PM
Adults: \$8.00
Ages 7-12: \$4.00
6 and under: Free
Takeouts Available for 50 cents more.
More info, call Kathy Pylarz at 825-6626

FISH

All Saints Parish
11264 Route 97 North
Waterford, PA
February 8, 15, 22, 29
March 7, 14
4:30-7:00 PM
Adults: \$7.00
Under 12: \$3.00
Toddlers: Free
Dinners include:
• Baked or Fried White Fish
• French Fries or Baked Potato
• Coleslaw, Apple Sauce
• Homemade Desserts
• Coffee, Tea, Fruit Drinks
Takeouts: 796-3023

FISH, SHRIMP & CRAB LEGS LUNCH AND DINNER

St. Joseph Parish
Route 66, Lucinda, PA
February 8, 15, 22, 29
March 7, 14, 21
4:00-7:00 PM
Adult: \$7.95, Child: \$3.95
4 and under: Free
Crab Leg Dinner: \$11.95
Dinner includes:
• Baked or Fried Fish
• Shrimp or Crab Legs
• Choice of Potato
• Coleslaw, Roll, Drink, Dessert
LUNCH
11:00 AM-1:00 PM, \$6.00
Takeout ONLY. Call 226-8310
Lunch includes:
• Fish Sandwich
• French Fries, Coleslaw

FISH

St. Luke Parish
Knights of Columbus
School Cafeteria
421 E. 38 St., Erie, PA
February 15, 22 & March 7, 14
5:00-7:00 PM
Adult: \$7.00 Donation
Child: (6-12): \$5.00 Donation
6 and under: Free
Dinner includes:
• Icelandic Cod
• French Fries
• Coleslaw or Applesauce
• Macaroni and Cheese or Pierogi
• Sherbet, Drinks
825-6920

FISH

St. Joseph Church
17735 Bennetts Valley Hwy, Force, PA
Ash Wednesday: February 6 and every Friday during Lent
4:00-7:00 PM
Adult: \$8.50, 12 and under: \$5.00
Dinner includes:
• Baked or Fried Haddock
• French Fries or Baked Potato
• Roll, Coleslaw, Dessert, Drink
Eat in or take out! Call 787-4819
We deliver in Bennetts Valley.

FISH

St. Teresa Parish
3rd Ave., Union City, PA
4:30-7:00 PM
Dinner includes:
• Baked or Fried Fish
• Baked Potato or French Fries
• Coleslaw, Roll,
• Desserts, Drink
More info: 438-2000

FISH

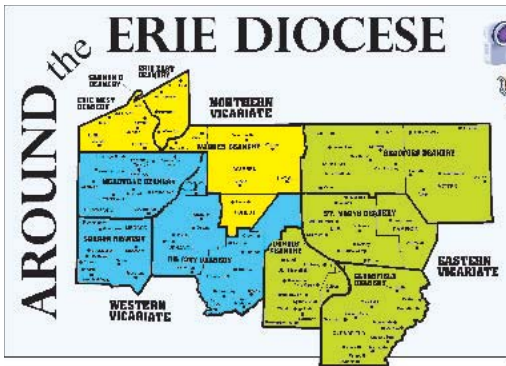
Blessed Sacrament Parish
Blessed Sacrament Cafeteria, Erie, PA
February 8, 22 & March 7
4:30-7:00 PM
Adults: \$8 for Fish or Cheese Ravioli Dinner
\$5.00 for Macaroni and Cheese Dinner
Child under 12:
\$5.00 for Fish or Cheese Ravioli
\$3.00 for Macaroni and Cheese
Dinner includes:
• Baked Scrod
• French Fries or Mac and Cheese
• Coleslaw, Roll, Sherbet, Drink
Takeouts available.
Stop by the bake sale after Dinner!
454-0171

FISH

St. Boniface Parish
School Cafeteria
355 Main St., Kersey, PA
Ash Wednesday: February 6
February 8, 15, 22, 29
March 7, 14, 21
4:00-7:00 PM
Large: \$8.00, Small: \$7.00
Dinner includes:
• Icelandic Haddock
• French Fries or Baked Potato
• Macaroni Salad or Coleslaw
• Roll, Drink, Dessert
Takeouts Available.
Two Free Dinners each night!
More info: 885-8941

FISH

St. Anthony Parish
St. Paul Center
746 W. Main St., Sheffield, PA
February 8, 15, 22, 29
March 7, 14, 21
5:00 PM-Sold out
Adult: \$8, Child: \$5
Dinner includes:
• Deep Fried Haddock
• French Fries, Coleslaw
• Desserts, Drinks
968-5915



AROUND the

ERIE DIOCESE



All parishes, missions, schools and groups are encouraged to choose a correspondent who can regularly e-mail news items to "Around the Erie Diocese" at FaithLife@ErieRCD.org

Are you pictured in this issue? Share this page with family and friends online by visiting archived issues of *FaithLife* at: www.ErieRCD.org/faithlife.asp

DCC campus ministry supports Make-A-Wish Foundation

DUBOIS — Campus Ministry of DuBois Central Catholic raised \$1,288 for the local Make-A-Wish Foundation, sponsored by radio station Sunny 106.5 FM. Pictured are radio personality Lori Lewis, at the mic, accepting DC's donation from members Christina Dutra and Meghan Pease. The funds were raised through Candy Cane Grams distributed at school, a babysitting service for families to go holiday shopping and through special homeroom contests. This is the fourth year that Campus Ministry has supported the local Make-A-Wish effort. Other December projects at DCC included the Mitten Tree, celebrating its fifth year, and the Angel Tree, a 20-plus year Central tradition that provides items for local unwed mothers and their new babies.



New members appointed to Diocesan Finance Council



ERIE — Msgr. John Swoger, E.V., Western Vicar and pastor of St. Joseph Parish in Oil City, and James Martin, Erie region president of Northwest Savings Bank and a member of St. George Parish in Erie, were both appointed in November to serve five-year terms on the Diocesan Finance Council. Pictured from left to right are finance council

members James Martin, Msgr. Charles Kaza, Peter Bucheit, C. Angela Bontempo, Msgr. Robert Brugger, Bishop Donald Trautman, Attorney Al Lander, Msgr. John Swoger, Maureen Barber-Carey and David Murphy, CFO. Absent from photo are council members Msgr. Robert Smith and Thomas Guelcher.

MPS student receives philanthropy award

ERIE — Mercyhurst Preparatory School senior Robbie Steinbrink, chosen as this year's Outstanding Philanthropic Youth, was honored at the Association of Fundraising Professionals' National Philanthropy Day Luncheon held Nov. 15. Steinbrink was nominated by Lisa Zompa Nietupski from the Erie City Mission.

"Robbie's story is most inspirational and impressive," Zompa said during her presentation.

This young philanthropist has annually collected donations and toys that are distributed to the children from Erie City Mission Family Care Center since he was in 6th grade. During his first year he raised \$850; last year he and friends collected \$5,000 to buy enough toys to fill 43 shopping carts for underprivileged children. He logs about 60 hours per year, collecting money, shopping



Robbie Steinbrink (second from left) displays his Outstanding Philanthropic Youth award while posing with his parents and principal. From left to right: Patty Steinbrink, Robbie, Peg Aste and Dr. William Steinbrink.

for toys and distributing the toys about three days before Christmas. "In the end I concluded that I received much more than I gave," he said.

Bradford Deanery using hand-made crosses to promote vocations

SMETHPORT — Parishes in the Bradford Deanery are using wooden crosses hand-crafted by Sam Costa of Smethport to help pray for vocations.

Costa, a parishioner of St. Raphael in Eldred and St. Elizabeth of Hungary in Smethport, has crafted wooden crosses from oak and native Pennsylvania cherry that he donated and finished with deck lacquer for use in the churches and missions of the Bradford Deanery.

"They stand eleven inches high and are six inches wide at the crossbar," Costa said.

The crosses, which are reminders to pray for all vocations, were distributed to priests at the Jan. 15 deanery meeting. Every week at Mass, a family will accept the role of praying for vocations and will be called after Communion to receive the cross. By accepting this responsibility of receiving the cross, families agree to display it in their homes and offer daily prayers and discussions for vocations to the diaconate, religious life, priesthood, single life and marriage.

All parishioners, not only those who take the crosses to their homes, are encouraged to pray throughout the year for vocations.

Sister Phyllis Schleicher, OSB, and Sister Mary William Hoffmann, OSB, met with the priests



Pictured from left to right are Father Samuel Slocum, pastor of Our Mother of Perpetual Help in Lewis Run and St. Francis of Assisi in Bradford; Sam Costa, who crafted the crosses; and the Father Brian Vossler, pastor of St. Raphael in Eldred, St. Theresa in Shinglehouse, and St. Mary Mission in Sartwell. St. Elizabeth of Hungary in Smethport is the home parish of both priests.

of the deanery during National Vocation Awareness Week Jan. 13-19. As part of the meeting's agenda, the sisters explained the vocation cross, a program that encourages families to pray for vocations.

"It is essential that we pray for vocations," Sister Mary William said.

"With the vocation cross, we are raising awareness and praying for all vocations, not just those to ordained ministry or the

consecrated life," said Sister Phyllis. "For those who choose to be married, there are many opportunities for service and stewardship. The church needs active lay people to fill the roles of catechists, pastors, Eucharistic ministers and hospitality ministers."

She added that "Good marriages lead to good families, and good families nurture good children."

— *Courtesy of Francis De Lancey, St. Elizabeth of Hungary in Smethport*

St. Callistus students show how they love Jesus



KANE — St. Callistus held a retreat for first graders on Jan. 16 with the theme of "How I Love Jesus." Each child drew pictures of ways they love Christ.

Pictured from left to right, front row: Savannah Abplanalp, Juliana Eila, Dominic Cartwright, Isaiah Holt and Alysha Biel. Back row: Adam Sicher, Catelyn Zampogna, Madison Bizzak and Halle Saf.

DCC kindergarteners help make Christmas bright



DUBOIS — Shortly before Christmas, DuBois Central Catholic kindergarteners delivered gifts to the Catholic Charities tree in the high school lobby for a baby girl and boy in need. The gifts were brought in by students and then wrapped in paper they decorated themselves.

Saint Ann Catholic Elementary School in Ohio seeks Full-Time Principal

The successful candidate will possess leadership experience, the proper certification from the state of Ohio, a Master's Degree (preferable in Administration), a Catechetical Leader Certificate (or in process) and be a practicing Catholic. Additional personal requirements include experience with school marketing and development practices. Send resumes and three letters of recommendations to: The Search Committee, c/o Rev. James E. Singler, 2175 Coventry Road, Cleveland Heights, OH 44118-2886. Application deadline date: February 22, 2008.

To: Women of the Erie Community

You are invited to attend and receive a belated Valentine gift to yourself by...

"Honoring Yourself as a Woman"

Guest speaker: Mimi O'Connor

When: Thursday, February 21

7:00-9:00 pm

Where: St. George Parish (5145 Peach St., Erie)

Tickets: Call 864-0622

Tickets are FREE, but a free will offering is appreciated. Call Jackie: 814-490-6846

"POSITION OPENING"
The Catholic Charities office seeks an administrative assistant to provide clerical support to the offices of Family Life, Diocesan and International Missions & Parish Social Ministry. Interested parties should call Catholic Charities at 814.824.1251.

View all FaithLife pages **ONLINE** www.ErieRCD.org/faithlife.asp

Religious Tours '08

★ **Shrines of France** April 13-24
Lourdes, Ars, Nevers, Lisieux, Paris, Normandy, Chartres, Avignon

★ **Lenten Holy Land Pilgrimage** June 16-26
Bethlehem, Jerusalem, Nazareth, Jericho, Cana, Galilee, Tabor, Tomb of Christ, etc.

For an information packet: 800.242.0728 or email: padre16201@yahoo.com

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Understanding the needs of your aging parent AND your own needs during this phase of life.

Attention: Caregivers
You and Your Aging Parent (relative or friend)

a six (6) week course, two hours per class
\$25 per person \$40 per married couple

Mondays from March 3rd thru April 7th
7 pm - 9 pm video, handouts, group sessions

Mercy Center on Aging, Inc.
(814) 824-2214 register by February 29th