

*The kingdom of God will be taken away from you
and given to a people that will produce its fruit.*
Matthew 21:43



VICARIATE
FOUR
GROUPING
438
N. Oakland
Chicora
Carbon Center

St. Joseph Parish

Located at 864 Chicora Rd.

Chicora, PA 16025

724-445-3713

Fax: 724-607-1183

Office Hours by PHONE only:

M. T. Th. - 9:30am-Noon

Mater Dolorosa Parish

Located at 409 North Main St.

Chicora, PA 16025

724-445-3713

Office Hours by PHONE only

at St. Joe Rectory:

M. T. Th. - 9:30am-Noon

St. Wendelin Parish

Located at 210 St. Wendelin Rd.

Butler, PA 16002

724-287-0820

www.stwendelinbutler.com

Office Hours:

M. W. F. - 9:00am-Noon

October 4, 2020

The Twenty-seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

A Message from Fr. Matt...

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

The First Reading, the Psalm, and the Gospel for today are all telling the same story. They are telling the story of Israel. God has taken special care of His chosen people. They are the vines transported from a bad place and planted in the vineyard with great care. God has done everything needed so that the vines produce good fruit. But the good fruit has not come. When Jesus takes the story further in the Gospel and says that this special care will be taken from them and given to people who will produce good fruit, that is the Church. That is us. Not just us as a whole, but each of us individually. We are challenged today to realize that God has taken great care to give each of us just what we need to produce good fruit for the Kingdom of God. We need to hear that challenge. Are you producing good fruit for God?

When I asked myself that question, a moment in my life popped into my head. If you know me, you know that at times, I am not completely put together! I can put on a good show, but I can be a little messy!

The first time I bought a car, my dad helped me out. I always got hand-me-downs from my brothers before this. He helped me out negotiating with the dealer (he has a system!) and he helped me out financially so that I could get something he felt was safe. He is a good dad! About a month after we bought the vehicle, I went to my parent's house to go out for lunch. I thought we were taking my dad's car. But he said, "Let's take your new car." I gulped. My car had a couple boxes in the front seat, golf clubs in the back, and more water bottles and plastic bags than one person should accumulate in a month. He saw the look on my face. I said, "Uhhh, ok, give me a minute to grab some things." My dad looked at me and said, "You ruined it already, didn't you?" Ugggh! He was right. I had - not irreparably ruined it - but it was a mess. I hated that feeling. That is the feeling I got when I read the Readings for this week. Am I like Israel? Do I make a mess of what God has given to me?



It's not a good feeling. If all I focus on is myself, and how I let down my dad and my Heavenly Father, nothing good can come of that feeling. It will just bring me anxiety and stress and self doubt. But what if there are some good things about that feeling? And honestly, there are. What if, instead of tearing myself down in that moment, I let that feeling remind me that my dad had invested in me? I am worthy of being invested in! That is a good thing! Maybe that understanding can let me move from a feeling of self chastisement to a feeling of responsibility. I was responsible not just to me, who can live just fine for myself in a messy car, but I was responsible to him.

But that leads to another "ugggh" moment. Does being responsible to him mean that I have to pay him back for all that he has done for me? No way. I can never pay back my dad for all that he has given me. I would never have enough time or money. The thing is, my dad wouldn't want me to. He doesn't keep a tab on all that he has done for me, thank God! But that doesn't mean I don't owe him. I am responsible to him and I can pay him back with the kind of life I live. This is the way it is with God.

This is what St. Paul is talking about in the Second Reading when he says that our response to all that God has done for us should be that we keep coming to Him. Thank God for what He has done for us and ask God to keep being God for us. We can't ever pay back God, but we can live lives worthy of His investment in us. We do this by focusing our lives on what is just, pure, lovely, gracious, excellent and praiseworthy. We can live like God's kids. We remember who we are and to whom we belong. We can't pay Him back, but we can live the kind of life He made us to live. We can bear good fruit.

So this week, challenge yourself. What kind of fruit is coming from your life? If you are at all like me, you might feel a little dread at that question. But don't let that overwhelm you. He is not asking you to pay it back. He is asking you to trust Him, to take His investment in you seriously, and to bring forth good things by the way you live your life.

When you go back to your car today, clean it up a little bit. But don't dare look in mine!

Peace and Love,
Fr. Matt

COVID-19 UPDATE

Bishop Zubik Eases Limits on Mass Attendance in the Diocese

Starting this weekend, 50% of maximum capacity is now permitted in Churches, while health and safety protocols remain in effect. Churches had been permitted 25% of capacity. Additionally, distribution of the Eucharist can take place during Mass, not after Mass, as it had been. Please bear with us as adjustments are made to better served Parishioners with these new and welcomed guidelines. To see Bishop Zubik's entire statement, log onto: <https://diopitt.org/news/bishop-david-zubik-eases-limits-on-attendance-for-masses-in-the-diocese-of-pittsburgh>. Dispensation from Mass attendance does remain in effect.



Sympathy is extended to the family of:

Floyd A. Zang

whose Funeral Service was October 1, 2020

Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord,

and let perpetual light shine upon him.

May he rest in peace.



OCTOBER 5 - OCTOBER 11

MONDAY:

GAL 1:6-12; PS 111:1B-2, 7-9, 10C;
LK 10:25-37

TUESDAY:

GAL 1:13-24; PS 139:1B-3, 13-15;
LK 10:38-42

WEDNESDAY:

GAL 2:1-2, 7-14; PS 117:1BC, 2; LK 11:1-4

THURSDAY:

GAL 3:1-5; LK 1:69-75; LK 11:5-13

FRIDAY:

GAL 3:7-14; PS 111:1B-6; LK 11:15-26

SATURDAY:

GAL 3:22-29; PS 105:2-7; LK 11:27-28

SUNDAY:

LS 25:6-10A; PS 23:1-6; PHIL 4:12-14, 19-20;
MT 22:1-14 [1-10]

PARISH NOTES

~ **2021 LOTTERY CALENDARS ARE IN!** They will be for sale **THIS WEEKEND, October 3 and 4**, after all Masses at all Churches. You can also purchase them on any Monday, Wednesday or Friday, 9am-Noon in the SW office. \$20 each for 365 chances to win with 1,000 calendars for sale.

~ All are invited to join in the **Praying of the Rosary for our Country and our Church**. Meet outdoors, in front on the Pieta at Mater Dolorosa on **Saturday, October 10 at Noon**. We will be one of 22,000 groups throughout the country, ALL praying a public Rosary, ALL at the same time! This is MD's third year of participation. This is what the Blessed Mother asked for at Fatima in 1917 when she told the people to pray the Rosary for World Peace.

~ **Young Adult Gatherings** are most third Thursdays at the Dew Drop Inn, with the next one on **Thursday, October 15, 6:30-8:00pm**. Come for social time, appetizers, and a relaxed Q & A with Fr. Matt. For Young Adults ages 21-40-ish.

~ **World Mission Sunday** is the weekend of **October 17 and 18**. A second offertory will be shared between our assigned Missionaries, School Sisters of St. Francis, and the yearly Mission appeal for the universal church.

~ Parents are required to take a **Baptismal Prep Class** prior to having your first child baptized, or if it has been a few years between children. In-person classes are not available and online Zoom classes are being scheduled. To register for a Zoom session or to schedule a baptism, contact Barb at 724-445-3713 x4.

~ **Fall Faith Formation classes** are underway. It is not too late to register for programs at both St. Joseph and St. Wendelin. Check the website for information, including on-site or remote availability.

FOR OUR VETERANS & FAMILIES

Every December, "Wreaths Across America" honors Veterans by placing wreaths on graves throughout the U.S. and abroad. The mission is to honor and remember the Fallen, and to teach our younger generation about the value of their freedoms. Each wreath is \$15, and they will be placed on graves near December 19. Order forms available soon. Sponsored by our Knights of Columbus Council 14103.

Butler County StandDown, "A Hand Up... Not a Hand Out" is **Friday, November 6**, Tanglewood Center, Lyndora, Noon-2pm, with Veterans-only hour 11am-Noon. (Proof of Veteran status required). This program serves homeless veterans, service members, their families, community members and any family in need. It includes: free medical screenings, clothes, shoes, hygiene products, a light meal, haircuts, entertainment, and multiple organizations with resource information and referrals will be available.

Monday-Sunday, October 5-11 ~ MASSES, CONFESSIONS, OPEN CHURCHES

Monday, October 5

Noon Mass at MD
For Richard "Dick" Callihan
By Ray & Kathy Robinson
Open church 11am till Mass starts

Tuesday, October 6

8am Mass at SW
For Garnet Kriley
By Sharon Dicerbo
Open church after Mass till 10am

Wednesday, October 7

10am School-only Mass at SW
(Due to building capacity limitations)
For Edward Tomasovic, Jr.
By Your Wife, Carol
(Open church temporarily suspended for school Mass)

Wednesday, October 7 continued

6pm Confessions at MD
Open church 6pm till Mass starts at 7pm at MD
For Patricia Liberto
By Terry Rottman & Sarah Zediker

Thursday, October 8

8am Mass at SW
For Diane Neal
By John & Sharon Bopp
Open church after Mass till 10am

Friday, October 9

Noon Mass at SJ
For Doris Stephenson
By Harry & Cecelia Jackson
Open church 11am till Mass starts

Saturday, October 10

11am Confessions at SW and MD and 11:45am at SJ
4pm Mass at SW
For Diana Lynn Neff
By Mom, Brothers & Sisters

Sunday, October 11

8am Mass at MD
For Parishioners of St. Joseph, Mater Dolorosa & St. Wendelin
9:30am Mass at SJ
For Sue Fallecker Green
By Mary Paserba & Family
11am Mass at SW
For Phyllis Hindman
Bucky & Family



Parish Offertories September 26 & 27

ST. JOSEPH PARISH

Offertory at Mass 9/27	\$262.00
Offertory Online	\$45.00
Total Offertory	\$307.00
Weekly Goal	\$1,500.00
Fiscal Year Goal	\$75,000.00
Total Toward Fiscal Year Goal	\$7,790.00
Parish Share: Monthly Envelope on Appeal	\$00.00
PSP Online	\$00.00
Total Parish Share	\$00.00
2020 Parish Share Goal	\$6,289.00
Total PSP Received 2020/21	\$12,427.00

Thank you for your generosity to Parish Ministries!

MATER DOLOROSA

Offertory at Mass 9/27	\$1,767.00
Offertory Online	\$175.00
Total Offertory	\$1,942.00
Weekly Goal	\$3,400.00
Fiscal Year Goal	\$175,000.00
Total Toward Fiscal Year Goal	\$20,705.00
House	\$10.00
Parish Share: Monthly Envelope on Appeal	\$100.00
PSP Online	\$65.00
Total Parish Share	\$165.00
2020 Parish Share Goal	\$20,985.00
Total Received 2020/21	\$15,510.00

ST. WENDELIN PARISH

Offertory at Mass 9/26 & 9/27	\$3,256.00
Offertory Online	\$546.00
Total Offertory	\$3,802.00
Weekly Goal	\$5,800.00
Fiscal Year Goal	\$300,000.00
Total Toward Fiscal Year Goal	\$52,430.96
Project Fund	\$30.00
Project Fund Online	\$40.00
Adopt A Child	\$20.00
Parish Share	\$425.00
Parish Online	\$40.00
Total Parish Share	\$465.00
2020 Parish Share Goal	\$47,710.00
Total PSP Received 2020/21	\$22,576.00
All Saint's Day	\$10.00
Mission Sunday	\$10.00
Retired Religious	\$50.00
Endowment Fund	\$40.00

Grouping Information

This week's St. Wendelin School

Student of the Week is:

JAX RITZERT

Jax is a Kindergarten student at St. Wendelin School. Jax has an older sister and a younger brother and sister. His favorite thing about school is homework! Jax likes to dig with his older sister, Ali, in their digging hole. He wants to make an underground fort that goes deep into the ground.

Jax would like to be a Police Officer when he grows up.

He wants to catch bad guys.

Congratulations to this week's

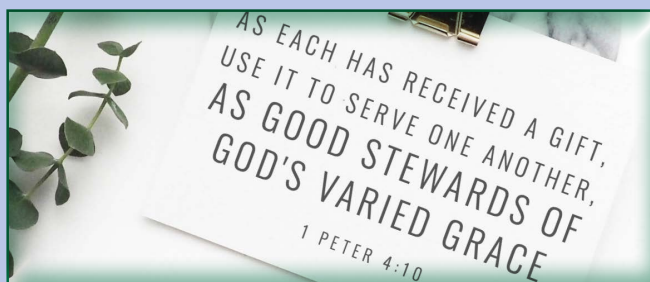
St. Wendelin School Student of the Week,

JAX RITZERT!

Catholic Identity Program

This program highlights a variety of virtues and values through short lessons, prayers, Scripture references, and more.

This Week's Virtue: Stewardship is receiving God's gifts, tending to them responsibly, and sharing them with others so we can give them back in increased measure to the Lord.
STEWARDSHIP



PTG FALL FUNDRAISERS

ONLINE PURSE RAFFLES: DRAWINGS ARE SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25, 6PM

Tickets for the main raffle are \$20 each, which gives you a chance at winning one of 12 purses. There is also a side raffle for a chance for one winner to win three amazing purses. And there is a chance on the 50/50.

To purchase tickets for any of the three raffles, use the links on the school or Parish website:

<https://www.stwendelinschool.com/>

<https://www.stwendelinbutler.com/>



Pictures will be posted of the main ticket purses leading up to the event on the school's Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/St-Wendelin-School-311866048839741/>

You can also get tickets from Nicole Karenbauer (724-290-8611) or contact her with questions.

DELICIOUS: DAFFIN'S CANDY BARS

Caramel, peanut butter, crispy, pretzel, almond and milk chocolate
Contact any school parent to purchase - \$1 each

THROUGHOUT THE YEAR: ONLINE RAFFLES

The school's first online raffle of the year was a **BOOMING SUCCESS** (two of the three prizes sold out in two hours!) and more exciting raffles are planned - all online. Links for purchases will be on the school Facebook page and website (see above under purse raffles). There will be a specific start time for sales, and they will end when all tickets for a specific item are sold. Prizes will vary from raffle to raffle.

GOBBLE!
ANNUAL
TURKEY
DINNER
is ON!



And Basket Raffle, too!

Drive by St. Wendelin Church on Sunday, November 15 to get your DRIVE THRU Turkey Dinner

We'll be serving the mouth-watering meal including turkey, stuffing, mashed potatoes & gravy, green beans, coleslaw, cranberries and a delicious pumpkin dessert from noon to 5pm.

While you wait for your meal to be readied, you'll have an opportunity to purchase tickets for the PTG Basket Raffle, all from the comforts of your own car. Prefer to just grab your meal and go? That's ok, too, because Basket Raffle tickets will be available for

pre-purchase online via the SWS and Parish websites soon. Dinner tickets available only at the event on November 15.

Willing to help? Bakers & Volunteers are needed and welcome! Are you a baker itching to get in the fall mood? We are looking for and accepting Pumpkin Pie, Pumpkin Rolls or Pumpkin Cupcakes and lots of them!

If you can spare some time, check out the **Sign-Up Genius Link**, also on the websites and available now. Help is needed the day of the dinner as well as the week before.