

Always be ready to give an
explanation to anyone who asks
you for the reason for your hope.

-- 1 Peter 3:15

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

Temporary Office Hours:

Monday & Tuesday, 9:30am-Noon

Mater Dolorosa Parish

Located at 409 North Main St.

Chicora, PA 16025

724-445-2275

Temporary Office Hours

at St. Joe Rectory:

Monday & Tuesday, 9:30am-Noon

St. Wendelin Parish

Located at 210 St. Wendelin Rd.

Butler, PA 16002

724-287-0820

www.stwendelinbutler.com

Temporary Office Hours:

Monday, 9:00am-Noon

May 17, 2020

The Sixth Sunday of Easter

A Message from Fr. Matt ...

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

The Readings for this week and the life context that we hear them in, led me to one of the greatest movies of all time, *Monty Python and the Holy Grail*. If you have never seen it, you should. It is ridiculous and smart and stupid and funny. It centers loosely around King Arthur and his Knights searching for the Holy Grail. They encounter all kinds of people and situations. I know I have quoted from it before at Mass. The scene that I was reminded of was when Arthur, King of the Britons, encounters the Black Knight. This Knight is huge and scary looking. King Arthur tries to get him to join their quest but the Black Knight is silent. When the King tries to move on past him, the Black Knight says, "None shall pass." He and King Arthur square up to fight. Arthur strikes a fatal blow with his sword but the Black Knight says, "Tis but a scratch," and



"I've had worse." It is a violent scene but it is kind of cartoonish and obviously not real. It is one of the most quoted scenes in the history of movies and it still makes me laugh. So why did I think of this scene when I looked at the Readings this week? It is the optimism of the Black Knight. No matter how many limbs he loses, he still thinks he is invincible.

Now why again did I think of this scene when I prayed over the Readings for this week? I think there is a reason! In the Second Reading today, St. Peter says, "Always be ready to give an explanation to anyone who asks you for a reason for your hope." When Peter wrote this, it was illegal to be a Christian. In fact, for the remainder of Peter's life on earth, Christianity was illegal. Christians, and especially Peter, had a target on their back. Peter would end up being killed for being a Christian. It was not

an easy time at all and this hard time went on for years. Yet, Peter was full of HOPE. No matter how many times Peter and the Apostles were chased out of towns, beaten for their beliefs, and imprisoned, they had hope. They had the attitude, that despite what was thrown their way, kind of like the Black Knight, "Tis but a scratch!"

But they weren't exactly like the Black Knight. No, the reason for their hope was different. The Black Knight showed optimism, which means that he believed that he could face whatever came his way. Peter says, be ready to show a reason for your hope. Hope is a theological virtue that means, God can do it! Whatever they faced was "but a scratch" because there was something bigger, someone bigger, in charge. The reason for their hope was who they were in Jesus.

The First Reading from the Acts of the Apostles, speaks of Baptism and Confirmation. In fact, this Reading is considered evidence of the very first Sacrament of Confirmation. In those Sacraments we are made members of the Body of Christ and by the power of the Holy Spirit we dwell in the Holy Trinity. In the Gospel, Jesus speaks of this by saying that through the coming of the Holy Spirit, which we will celebrate in a few weeks at Pentecost, "I am in the Father and you are in Me and I in you." This is the reason for our hope!

So maybe today you aren't feeling so optimistic. That's okay. You aren't the Black Knight. It isn't all up to you. But there is reason to be hopeful. Let me say that again. It isn't all up to you. It isn't all on your shoulders, because you are not alone. You are a part of something, someone, much bigger than our current situation. Our Lord Jesus, who died on the Cross, defeating sin and death, says He is with you. Jesus who walked on water and healed the sick, says He is in you. Jesus, who rose triumphantly from the grave and ascended to God the Father's right hand and sent the Holy Spirit to console us, strengthen us and guide us, says, you are with Us!

I know things are challenging. But remember who you are. Remember whose you are. There is a reason for hope!

Peace and Love,
Fr. Matt

CHURCHES REOPEN FOR PRIVATE PRAYER

The first phase of Church reopening this weekend includes the following:

- All previous directives remain in effect.
- Churches are permitted to open for private prayer with safety guidelines in place including: seating in designated areas only, the use of masks, hand sanitizers, and social distancing with the state requirement of fewer than 25 people in attendance. Hours are posted at each location.
- Confessionals do not meet public health safety requirements, and as such, Confessions will continue to be drive thru on Wednesdays and Saturdays.
- Livestream Masses will continue.

Moving forward from this phase, the Diocese will look to return to the public celebration of the Holy Mass, with changes in place to allow for a safe experience, respectful of social distancing, and health and hygiene guidelines. More details will be released as we come closer to the next phase.



**MAY 18
THRU
MAY 24**

MONDAY:

ACTS 16:11-15; PS 149:1B-6A, 9B;
JN 15:26-16:4A

TUESDAY:

ACTS 16:22-34; PS 138:1-3, 7C-8; JN 16:5-11

WEDNESDAY:

ACTS 17:15, 22-18:1; PS 148:1-2, 11-14;
JN 16:12-15

THURSDAY:

ACTS 1:1-11; PS 47:2-3, 6-9; EPH 1:17-23;
MT 28:16-20 (FOR ASCENSION);
OTHERWISE:
ACTS 18:1-8; PS 98:1-4; JN 16:16-20

FRIDAY:

ACTS 18:9-18; PS 47:2-7; JN 16:20-23

SATURDAY:

ACTS 18:23-28; PS 47:2, 8-10; JN 16:23-28

SUNDAY:

ACTS 1:12-14; PS 27:1,7-8; 1 PT 4:13-16;
JN 17:1-11A

SAINT JOSEPH

Mater Dolorosa

Saint Wendelin

Ascension Vigil Mass

On **Wednesday, May 20 at 5:00pm**, the Grouping will livestream a Vigil Mass for Ascension of the Lord. Join us from Mater Dolorosa as Fr. Matt celebrates Mass for this Holy Day of Obligation.

2021 Lottery Calendar

We are beginning to layout our 2021 Lottery Calendar, and it's a little different! Many of you are familiar with the SWP Lottery Calendar. With the exciting news of the merger of our three Parishes, we want to extend an opportunity to businesses that serve all Parishioners of our new and vibrant Grouping, soon to be Parish. Our Lottery Calendar will be good for the entire year of 2021. If you have a business in the surrounding area of our Parishes, you have the opportunity to advertise in our Lottery Calendar. If your business did not receive a letter in the mail, contact Nicole Karenbauer for information, 724-287-0820.

Virtual Bar Talk - Sit-n-Sip!

THURSDAY, MAY 21, ABOUT 6:30PM

Text/call Sue for Zoom log on info at 724-504-3166. Bar Talk is for adults ages 21-40. It's virtual talk but NOT virtual beverages! Fr. Matt will discuss any Catholic topic you want to hear about!

SWP Flower Garden Plots

Gardening! It's one of the few activities we can



actually do! If you've been in charge of a SWP garden plot in the past, you are welcome to hit the dirt and get your area lookin' good. If you've never had a plot but would like one, call the SWP office @ 724-287-0820. Thank you to the faithful who have already tended to their plots this spring. We are almost ready to welcome summer and MASSES!

Confessions on Two Days at Two Locations

Drive thru Confessions are available with the following schedule:

Wednesdays

Mater Dolorosa at Noon
St. Wendelin at 6:00pm

Saturdays

11:00am at both
Mater Dolorosa & St. Wendelin

Please remain in your vehicle and follow directional signs and cones. If there is more than one occupant, Confessions can be heard individually.



Prayer Lists Updated

Prayer lists have been updated and all three Parishes are on the website: <https://www.stwendelinbutler.com/> Log on to view or print out a hard copy. To add or remove a name: call SWP office @ 724-287-0820 for SW Parishioners; and for SJ and MD Parishioners, call Fran Parker @ 724-445-7421 or Nancy Long @ 814-935-5303.

Help For Elderly Parishioner

The family of an elderly female SW Parishioner is looking to pay for help with her care at her local residential location. Contact Angie Mohr @ 724-991-8756 or Jim Boyd, Ageless Seniors Agency, @ 724-403-0481. As a caregiver, you can work as few or as many hours as you want.

Deer Classic Rescheduled

Originally planned for April 25, St. Wendelin School's Deer Classic is

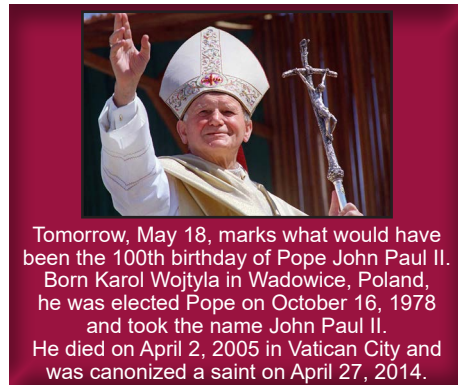
rescheduled for the **Fourth of July!** IT'S THE SAME GREAT EVENT JUST A DIFFERENT DAY! Gun raffles, adult beverages, food, day-of raffles, and rack scoring. It's still at Happy Hunters, 676 Chicora Fenelon Rd., Noon-6:00pm. All tickets with the original April 25 date will be honored. TICKETS WILL NOT BE REISSUED OR REDATED. Questions? Christine at 724-504-7366.

What Should I Do With Offertory Envelopes?

You can mail Weekly, Special Offertory, and Parish Share to your Parish:

- **ST. JOSEPH**
864 Chicora Road
Chicora, PA 16025
- **MATER DOLOROSA**
PO Box 243
Chicora, PA 16025
- **ST. WENDELIN**
210 St. Wendelin Rd.
Butler, PA 16002

OR - ONLINE offertory is available for all three parishes with links at: <https://www.stwendelinbutler.com/>
OR - ALL Parishioners (not just SW) can leave envelopes in the SW Rectory drop slot. This is the door facing the church if you walk down the long, narrow walkway next to the church.



Tomorrow, May 18, marks what would have been the 100th birthday of Pope John Paul II. Born Karol Wojtyla in Wadowice, Poland, he was elected Pope on October 16, 1978 and took the name John Paul II. He died on April 2, 2005 in Vatican City and was canonized a saint on April 27, 2014.



Parish Offertories

May 10

ST. JOSEPH PARISH

Offertory at Mass 5/10	\$490.00
Offertory Online	\$45.00
Total Offertory	\$535.00
Weekly Goal	\$1,000.00
Fiscal Year Goal	\$50,000.00
Total Toward Fiscal Year Goal	\$32,033.50
Parish Share: Monthly Envelope on Appeal	\$180.00
PSP Online	\$45.00
Total PSP	\$225.00
2020 Parish Share Goal	\$6,289.00
Total PSP Received 2020/21	\$7,257.00

Thank you for your generosity to Parish Ministries!

MATER DOLOROSA

Offertory at Mass 5/10	\$1,425.00
Offertory Online	\$65.00
Total Offertory	\$1,490.00
Weekly Goal	\$2,500.00
Fiscal Year Goal	\$150,000.00
Total Toward Fiscal Year Goal	\$101,793.50
House	\$150.00
Parish Share: Monthly Envelope on Appeal	\$570.00
PSP Online	\$00.00
Total Parish Share	\$570.00
2020 Parish Share Goal	\$20,985.00
Total Received 2020/21	\$9,425.00
Catholic Relief Services	\$10.00
Ascension of the Lord	\$10.00

ST. WENDELIN PARISH

Offertory at Mass 5/10	\$2,733.00
Offertory Online	\$716.00
Total Offertory	\$3,449.00
Weekly Goal	\$5,139.00
Fiscal Year Goal	\$272,000.00
Total Toward Fiscal Year Goal	\$183,044.78
Project Fund	\$55.00
Project Fund Online	\$5.00
Adopt A Child	\$35.00
Adopt A Child Online	\$30.00
Parish Share	\$860.00
Parish Online	\$50.00
Total Parish Share	\$910.00
2020 Parish Share Goal	\$47,710.00
Total PSP Received 2020/21	\$12,668.00
Endowment Fund Y-T-D	\$500.00
Catholic Relief Services	\$50.00
Ascension of the Lord	\$61.00

Grouping Information

This week's St. Wendelin School

Student of the Week is:

LIAM STANLEY

Liam has attended St. Wendelin since Preschool and is currently a first grade student at St. Wendelin School. Liam's favorite subject is Art because he enjoys making projects.

He has received awards for Math and school attendance. He is a member of the St. Wendelin School Outdoor Club. Outside of school, Liam enjoys playing with Hot Wheels and trains. He also likes to have fun on the swings at recess. Liam is very creative, is a hard worker, and has a great personality.

Congratulations to this week's

St. Wendelin School Student of the Week,

LIAM STANLEY

Catholic Identity Program

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

This Week's Virtue is:

Creativity

Creativity is using our imaginations and abilities to evangelize and spread the Kingdom of God.



St. Catherine of Bologna, Patron Saint of the Arts

A fifteenth-century cloistered nun who lived and died in relative obscurity doesn't seem the most obvious choice to be Patron Saint of Artists. Yet a closer look at the life of St. Catherine of Bologna shows that she is indeed a saint worthy to intercede for and inspire artists. Her creative spirit, talents, visions, and struggle with doubts make her a saint even modern-day artists can relate to. She was born on Sept. 8, 1413, in Bologna, Italy to an aristocratic family. Her father, a diplomat to the Marquis of Ferrara, sent her to court when she was 11 to be a companion to the Marquis' daughter, Princess Margarita. The city of Ferrara was becoming a cultural center, and so the young girls had an excellent education in music, literature, painting, and dancing. Catherine particularly excelled at miniature painting, Latin, and the viola.

When Margarita became engaged, she wanted Catherine to remain her companion, but Catherine felt called to the religious life. At 14, she became a Franciscan Tertiary, an order of lay women who followed the ways of St. Francis. A few years later, dissension in the community led Catherine and others to join the Poor Clares, a contemplative order founded by St. Francis and St. Clare of Assisi. In spite of her aristocratic background and education, Catherine willingly served in the more humble roles at the convent, including laundress, baker, and caretaker to the animals. Late in her life, she obediently left her beloved Ferrara monastery to form a new convent in Bologna, where she served as abbess despite her desire for a less prominent role. She continued in her artistic pursuits, playing the viola (even on her deathbed), painting religious pictures (her painting of St. Ursula hangs today in a gallery in Venice), copying out and illuminating her breviary (once belonging to Pius IX and now on display at Oxford), and writing spiritual guides and poetry.

Scholars and religious have shown a renewed interest in the guide she wrote for novices, The Seven Spiritual Weapons. One of the "weapons" she describes in that treatise might inspire Catholic artists today: in exhorting her sisters to trust in God, she tells them, "to believe that alone we will never be able to do something truly good." Throughout her life St. Catherine experienced mystical visions, which she documented in her treatise. She wrote that she had the ecstatic experience of having the baby Jesus placed in her arms by the Blessed Mother. She was also tormented by visions of the devil, but she was able to overcome these after many years of prayer.

At age 49, she became gravely ill and died a few months later. As was the custom of the Poor Clares, she was buried without a coffin. She was exhumed 18 days later after visitors noticed a sweet smell coming from her grave and some experienced miracles. Her body was found to be flexible and uncorrupted. Six hundred years later, her body remains intact. Her skin has blackened from exposure to oil lamps and soot, but still she sits, clothed in her nun's robes, on a golden throne behind a glass case in the Church of the Saint in Bologna, resplendent in death as she would never have wanted to be in life. She was canonized in 1712 and her feast day is March 9.

<https://www.loyolapress.com/catholic-resources/prayer/arts-and-faith/visual-arts/st-catherine-of-bologna-patron-saint-of-the-arts/>



We Have a Facebook Group!

It's a great way to find out quickly what is going on in the Parishes. We're at: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/catholicparishesofnbc>.



That's Parishes of NEBC, Northeast Butler County!