

6TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST 7/5/26

Saturday: 5:30 PM (E) ✨ Terri Ferko (req. by Mike Ferko)

Sunday: 8:30 AM (G) ✨ Julia Aranyos (req. by Larry & Paula Reinhart)

11:00 AM (E) ✨ Fr. Andrew Resetar

7TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST 7/12/26

Saturday: 5:30 PM (E) ✨ Dan Foltz, Sr. (req. by Don & Pauline Kowalski Family)

Sunday: 8:30 AM (G) ✨ Agnes Shepegi (req. by Paul & Doris Pangratz)

11:00 AM (E) For the Parish Family

OUR RETURN TO THE LORD FOR ALL HE HAS GIVEN US:

06/28/26

\$1825.00**CHRISTIAN CUPBOARD JULY COLLECTION – Stuffing Mix***Proverbs 14:31 – “Anyone who oppresses the poor is insulting God who made them. To help the poor is to honor God.”***2026 ERIE COUNTY BYZANTINE CATHOLIC FAMILY DAY – Sunday, August 9**

Please see the sign-up sheet in the narthex for the noon lunch and order forms for both free and purchased ride tickets. Deadline to order tickets is July 19. All are invited to attend the lunch, no need to be a “rider.” Bring a dish to share. Meat, tableware, coffee, and iced tea will be provided. Contact Abby Adams (not the park office) at 814-790-3203 with questions.

In the Name of Freedom

*In the name of freedom, we gather from far and near,
On this Fourth of July, filled with hope and good cheer.
A tapestry of colors, in red, white, and blue,
Our bonds intertwining, forever strong and true.*

*From sea to shining sea, a land of great might,
Where dreams can take flight, like a bird in its flight.
The Founding Fathers’ vision, forever held dear,
In the hearts of Americans, year after year.*

*So let us remember, with gratitude and pride,
The sacrifices made, as our freedoms were tried.
On this fourth of July, as fireworks ignite,
We honor our heroes, in the name of what’s right.*

- L. Thompson

SCRIPTURE PRAYER - *May the Word of God dwell in our hearts and guide the actions of our lives.*

TRUST THE HOLY SPIRIT

As we face the various trials that are an inevitable part of life, we can become overwhelmed. Sometimes the negative forces in and around us threaten to overshadow all that is good and beautiful in ourselves and the world. During those times, it is imperative to trust the still small voice of the Spirit. Like any good guide, that voice will use healthy doses of patience and encouragement to move us along the path of faith, hope, and love. *-Living Faith*

ORDINARY PEOPLE

Jesus’ encounters with the Pharisees never fail to entertain. Almost everywhere he preaches, a few of them show up, trying to compromise his ministry, to catch him in a violation of custom or law. Mingling with known sinners, as Jesus did repeatedly, was clearly unacceptable to the Pharisees.

While obeying the law is important – and Jesus was an observant Jew – he also knew the law and social strictures had their limitations. His message to the legalistic sticklers is straightforward, unadorned. He wants to engage real people on real issues, people with faults, problems, people searching for God. That means folks like you and me. And while he is not excluding the arrogantly self-righteous among us, he’s pretty busy with the rest of humanity. His message is freely offered to any and all who will listen.

The Price of Liberty

In their book, “*The Bold and Magnificent Dream*,” Bruce and William Catton write: “The men who adopted the Declaration knew perfectly well that if things went wrong, their signatures would lead them to an ugly death on the scaffold and in the reeking pit below the scaffold, where the hangman with his bloody knife would wait beside a little bonfire. They accepted this, and jested about it.”

We like to imagine the fifty-six great men who signed the Declaration of Independence on that muggy day of July 4, 1776, as we see them on the painting at the courthouse – neatly securing our nations’ freedom while wearing fancy suits, without a bit of cost to themselves. But that simply wasn’t the case. Because the path from that declaration to America’s freedom wound right through the Revolutionary War – and many lost their lives. Five were captured by the British and tortured before they died. Nine died in the Revolutionary War itself. Twelve had their homes sacked, looted, burned, or occupied by the enemy. Two lost their sons in battle. One had two sons captured. Their commitment was very costly. Their victory carried a high price. Most decisions that are worth something usually do. *-Chuck Swindell*

JESUS PRAYER – *Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner*