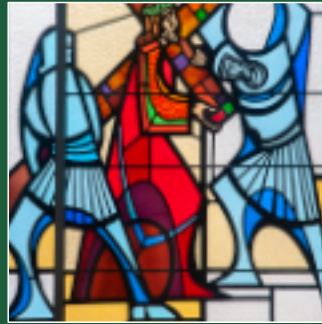
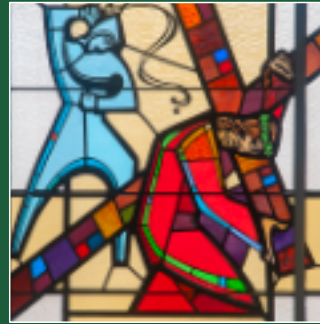


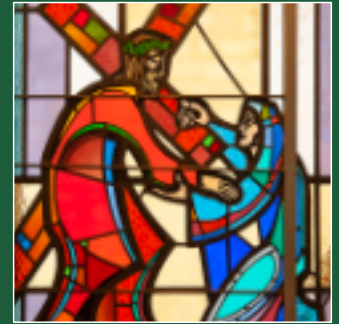
I. JESUS IS CONDEMNED



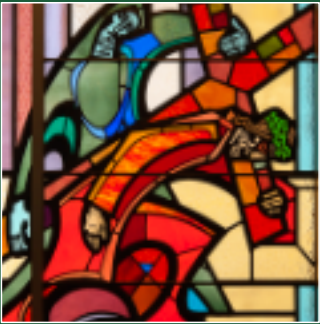
II. THE CROSS



III. THE FIRST FALL



IV. MOTHER AND SON



V. SIMON HELPS

News For Those Sixty And Over,
Caregivers, And The Saint George Parish Community

SixtyPlus

Newsletter

I AM THE
LIGHT
OF THE WORLD

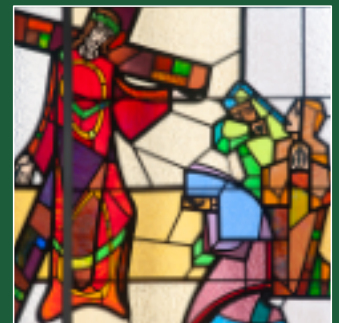
SAINT GEORGE CHURCH
• ERIE, PENNSYLVANIA •



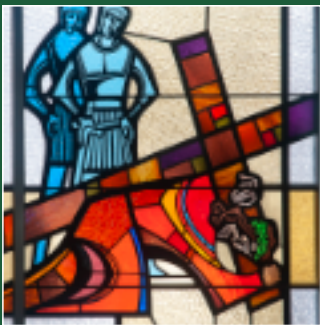
VI. VERONICA'S VEIL



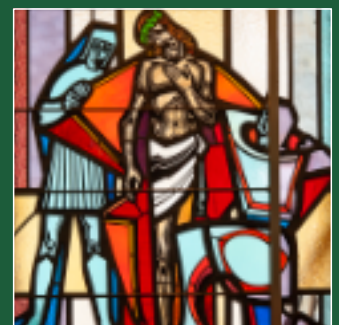
VII. THE SECOND FALL



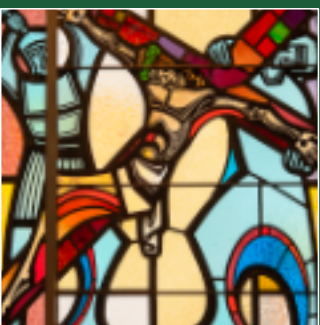
VIII. THE HOLY WOMEN



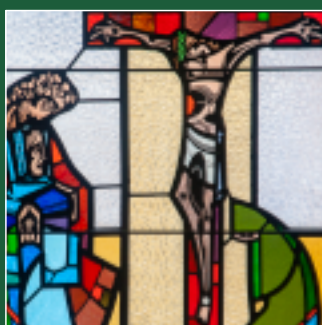
IX. THE THIRD FALL



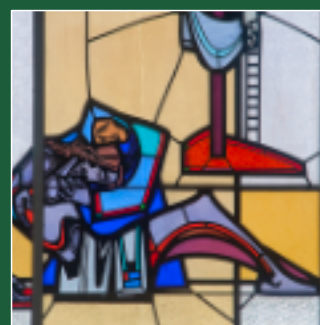
X. THE STRIPPING



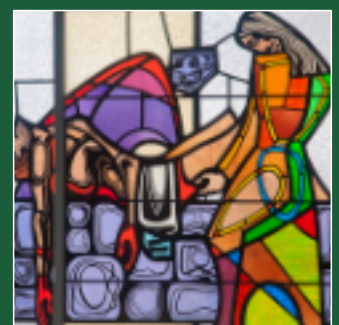
XI. THE NAILING



XII. JESUS DIES



XIII. THE DESCENT



XIV. JESUS ENTOMBED

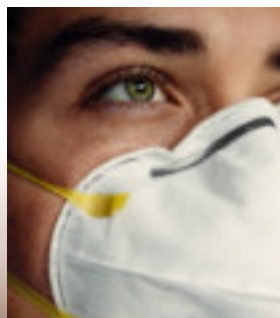
On Friday, March 13, 2020, when the COVID pandemic began here in the United States, our way of life was adversely affected. Businesses, schools, nursing homes, hospitals, churches and travel felt this impact. New protocols of social distancing, wearing masks and proper sanitizing were all introduced. Being disconnected from loved ones, for safety purposes, became the norm. Life in general was brought to a standstill.

by Fr. Brian Vossler, Pastor



The staff here at St. George, aware of these conditions, made a concerted effort to reach out to our people. Our first step was to live stream our Sunday mass which will now continue for weekday masses and our school masses. Secondly, we sent out weekly emails to provide valuable information on current updates. Third, over 500 of our parishioners were contacted by phone to see how they were doing and to offer any assistance that our office could provide. Fourthly, we began to “zoom” our different organizations to keep up momentum. Finally, and most importantly, we prayed for the well-being of all our people.

Now that we are slowly re-opening and seeking to resume our former way of life, I pray that we as a people will have a deeper appreciation of those things that perhaps we may have previously taken for granted. One being our faith and trust in God who delivers us from the struggles and tribulations of life. May we always rely upon His grace as we look to our future.



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There has been much concern with psychological problems such as depression, anxiety and other mental health issues during the COVID-19 Pandemic that has raised awareness to the physical and mental health of those in our community. Although isolation can help in reducing infections, it reduces access to family, friends, and other social support systems and can cause loneliness.

In times like these its important to look into some necessary preventative measures to reduce such effects. Below are some following times to follow to help in overcoming mental concerns.

When suffering from Anxiety or Loneliness:

Recognize the fear. Remember that you are not isolated in feeling insecure.

Planning the daily routines helps in adapting quickly and managing anxiety.

Divide your time clearly as work and non-work times. Make the same division in your headspace too.

Identify an activity/hobby that brings you joy and perform it.

Working in short bursts with clear breaks will help to maintain your clarity of thought.

Be active in groups you like and spend time with the community you live in.

Spend time with loved ones when possible.

Be in touch with friends, family, and colleagues over social media or the phone.

Try a new hobby. Learn something new every day. Keep your mind engaged.

Pen down your thoughts and emotions regularly.

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Reflections on becoming a priest during the COVID Pandemic

by Fr. Joseph Petrone



We always said in seminary that if you wanted to make God laugh, just tell Him your plans. It is one of the sayings that certainly has come true for all of us in recent months. My

classmate, Fr. Kevin Holland, and I had several meetings with the priests in charge of the seminary late last year. The cathedral is under renovation, so they told us we would be ordained at St. Patrick Church instead. Both of us are from Erie, so we were concerned that we would overcrowd the church for our ordination and that it would be difficult to find a location for the reception afterwards.

Of course, the shutdown in March radically altered any plans we had made about our ordination. Classmates from our seminaries had their ordinations indefinitely postponed. We were hoping that we would not join their ranks, even if our ordination was not the jam-packed event we had pictured in our preparations for the big day! Finally, we received the call: Bishop Persico felt that our ordination would be a sign of hope for the diocese in the pandemic. He would be going

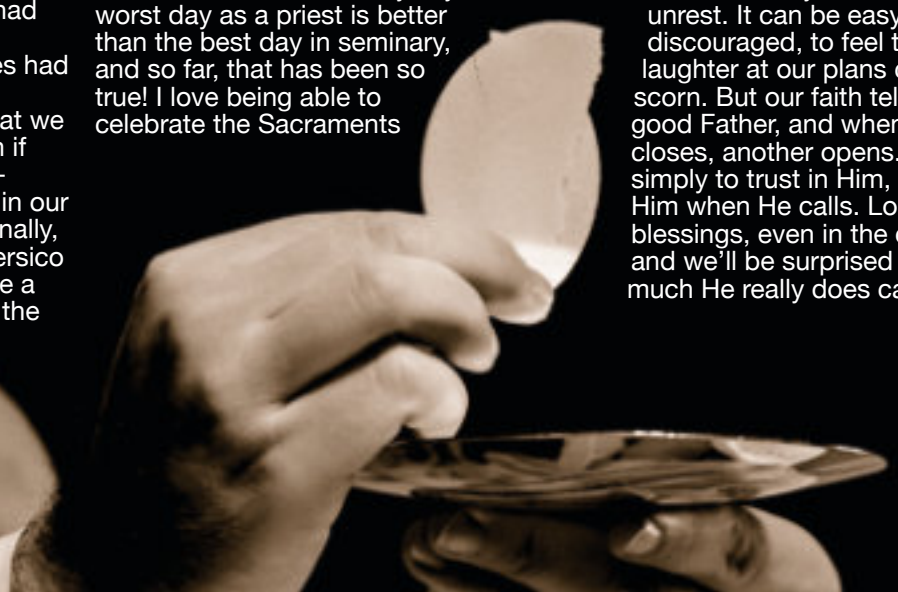
ahead with it and was making arrangements for live streaming.

Often, when our plans change, it can be easy to become very upset about it. I must confess that I was upset I would not get to celebrate with my friends. But even in the midst of trials, there are always blessings if we know where to look. Think of all the parents who, during the lockdown, were able to hear their child say their first words, or see their first steps when they ordinarily would have been at work! My grandma's sister is 90 years old, lives in South Carolina, and can no longer travel. But because the ordination was live streamed, she was able to watch the Mass live—something she wouldn't have been able to do otherwise.

Life as a priest has also been very different than I expected—both for better and for worse. They say the worst day as a priest is better than the best day in seminary, and so far, that has been so true! I love being able to celebrate the Sacraments

for the people. And although the crowds have been smaller, we have been working diligently to keep people safe and the church clean, and people have reported feeling very safe when they come back, which I believe is extremely important! But again, here I find another blessing. I remember faces, and I remember names, but I struggle when it comes to putting the two together. I was really concerned about coming to a parish as big as St. George, but with our slow and steady reopening plan, I have been able to meet smaller groups and get to know them, and then another group or a few more people have come and I've been able to meet people in a much better way.

This time has been unlike anything the past hundred years has thrown at us—an unseen enemy, added to a divisive election year and great civil unrest. It can be easy to be discouraged, to feel that God's laughter at our plans can be scorn. But our faith tells us He is a good Father, and when one door closes, another opens. We need simply to trust in Him, and to follow Him when He calls. Look for the blessings, even in the darkness, and we'll be surprised by how much He really does care for us.



Solace in the Blessed Sacrament



by Deacon Bob Ball

"I thirst." These words at the insistence of Saint Mother Teresa of Calcutta are placed in every chapel of the communities of consecrated women she had founded to minister to the poorest in India and throughout the world.

She would admit that after she committed to having her sisters pray a holy hour of adoration every day instead of once a week that her community truly began to grow and blossom.

In those two words uttered by Jesus as he hung upon the cross, she wanted her sisters to recognize the great thirst of Christ's love for them and us revealed in the Blessed Sacrament.

She said it this way, "When you look at the crucifix you understand how much Jesus loved you. When you look at the Sacred Host you understand how much Jesus loves you NOW."

Especially during these times of pandemic, environmental disasters, social unrest and economic stress we need more than ever to search our hearts for the meaning of these words in our lives. "I thirst."

"In the adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, Mary says to us, 'Look at my son Jesus, keep your gaze fixed on him, listen to him, speak with him. He is gazing at you with love. Do not be afraid! He will teach you to follow him and bear witness to him in all that you do, whether great or small, in your family, at work, at times of celebration.'" Pope Francis

Civility and the Election. How to engage in civil dialogue with friends, family members and fellow citizens in the midst of an election?

Recently, Saint George has been posting a series of articles in our weekly bulletin regarding Civility and the Election. The articles come out of a wonderful resource provided by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. While pastors and others are discouraged from sharing specific political leanings from the pulpit, these resources provide a blueprint for Catholics to understand themselves, each other and how to engage in civil dialogue with friends, family members and fellow citizens.

For access to these resources you can visit <https://www.usccb.org/>. For now here are a few highlights from the readings:

Tips for Engaging in Civil Dialogue:

1. Listen first and seek to understand the whole picture.
2. Ask questions for clarification.
3. Use 'I' statements; pay attention to body language.
4. Listen to what feelings are present and pay attention to how you respond.
5. Summarize what you've heard and ask for feedback.

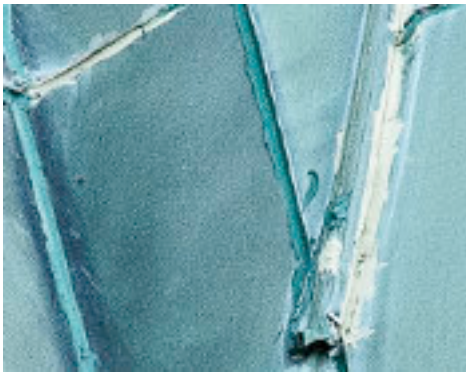
Some specific ideas to form your conscience are:

1. Begin by being open to the truth and what is right.
2. Study Sacred Scripture and the teaching of the Church.
3. Examine the facts and background information about various choices and be discerning in where we gather information.
4. Prayerfully reflect to discern the will of God.

Additionally, it is important to consider how our community of faith can help us form good consciences through some of these steps:

1. Seek the prudent advice and good example of trusted leaders and others to support and enlighten our conscience.
2. Learn about the authoritative teaching of the Church.
3. Pray for the gifts of the Holy Spirit to help us develop our conscience.





Although repaired and resealed over many years the copper roof continues to leak and needs replacement.



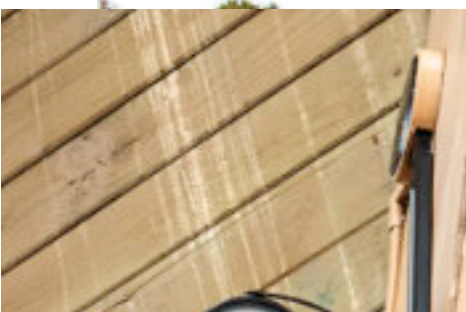
Cracked and missing pieces of stained-glass throughout the church interior need repair or replacement.



The bell tower is structurally sound but has extensive corrosion and is in need of repair.



Water damage to interior wooden ceiling and support beams.



A sense of community and commitment best describes the men and women who built Saint George Church in 1959. Today, you can help continue that legacy of faith and service through the Raise The Roof Appeal.



God has blessed us in so many ways! He gave us the men and women who originally established this parish in 1922. He gave us faithful stewards who kept us going. He instilled in us a sense of community and commitment through the men and women who built our church in 1959.

Our responsibility is to continue these good deeds and pass on the foundation of our Catholic Faith to our children and to all of our sisters and brothers. I pray that we will be as faithful to our call as our ancestors were to theirs.

May God continue to bless our parish family as we continue to do the good works of our Lord!

The first phase of the Raise the Roof project will begin in the spring of 2021 and focus on:

Roof Replacement: The copper roof is original to the building built in 1959, and past its useful life cycle and needs to be replaced. The skylight directly above the altar shows signs of leakage also.

Stained-Glass: The stained-glass is a single paned glazing and not very energy efficient. Some of the stained-glass is cracked and portions of the metal framing are pulling away from the windows.

You should have received an appeal packet in the mail. It is our hope that we will raise \$1,000,000 for Phase 1. These gifts will pay for the roof replacement and necessary repairs to the stained-glass windows.

EVERY GIFT MATTERS. Thank you in advance for your commitment and dedication to Saint George Church.

Fr. Brian Vossler

Fr. Brian Vossler
Pastor



Celebrating (or not celebrating) 50 years of priestly ordination during a Covid-19 pandemic.

by Reverend Philip M. Oriole

In the Book of Jeremiah, Chapter 29: 11-16, is the famous 'Song of Hope'

Refrain:

"I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord: plans of fullness, not of harm; to give you a future and a hope.

Verse 3:

You will seek me, and find me, When you seek me with all of your heart, I will be found by you."



I have always treasured this love song of God for the prophet Jeremiah, for the whole nation of Israel, and for each of us. God's 'Song of Hope' explains my answer to the call to be a priest. Deeply woven in the fabric of my life is this refreshing hope and promise of God's constant care.

In January 2020, I cancelled my ski trip to Colorado due to a severely bruised rotator cuff. I was deeply disappointed. So I accepted a consolation prize; I would join my family for a vacation in April. Covid had already hit us. The trip was cancelled. My ordination anniversary celebration in the parish and one back home in Warren in early May was cancelled due to the Covid restrictions. I then watched any hope of rescheduling go down the drain as this pandemic lingers on and on. But the refreshing hope and promise of God's constant care remains strong.



In my life as a priest, it has been an absolute joy and delight to share God's care with parishioners during moments of the Sacraments of our Faith. It has been crushing and heartbreaking to seek to understand God's care with families at times of tragedy and loss. But the echo of the refreshing hope and promise of God's constant care still reverberates.

So, in joy and in hope, still celebrating 50 years of ordination in this treasure of our faith, let us pray for each other.

DID YOU KNOW

- The Dispensation for Sunday Mass and Holy Days has been extended until at least the end of 2020 per Bishop Persico.
- Christmas is coming. The staff at Saint George is working on how Christmas Masses will be scheduled this year. We will be posting Mass times in upcoming bulletins, on our website and in the next Edition of SixtyPlus. Stay Tuned...
- Despite the shutdown this past spring there is still consistent offertory coming in. (Offertory only down 25% Diocesan-wide.) Additionally, Saint George Church met our 2019-2020 fiscal budget goals! THANK YOU!
- Our ministries have started up slowly with limited capacity in our Rectory meeting rooms while moving some of the larger gatherings to the Church or outdoors. These include: Legion of Mary, Weekly Bible Study, Prayer Shawl Ministry, RCIA, That Man is You, Men and Women's WELCOME meetings, etc.
- Saint George has hosted weddings every weekend in September with more to come. Baptisms are also beginning to be scheduled on a more regular basis.



Matthew Kelly is an internationally acclaimed speaker, author, and business consultant. His books have been published in more than 25 languages, have appeared on the New York Times, Wall Street Journal, and USA Today bestseller lists, and have sold more than 40 million copies.

Each ticket purchase includes an event-exclusive copy of Matthew Kelly's newest book *Amazing Possibilities* delivered to your door. Shipping information and an email is required for every ticket purchase. Cost is \$39.00 per person

Purchase tickets online at <https://dynamiccatholic.ticketspice.com/amazing-possibilities>

Need help purchasing? Call our team at (859) 980-7900

CALENDAR EVENTS

- October 25:** Pre Cana Retreat//(also Father Brian's Birthday)
- November 1:** All Saints (Regular Mass schedule)
DAYLIGHT SAVINGS BEGINS
- November 3:** Election Day
- November 5:** Matthew Kelly online Event
- November 11:** Veterans Day
- November 26:** Thanksgiving Day (9am Mass only)
- November 27:** Mass at 8am only

*ADORATION hours have changed: Adoration will now be held Fridays 8:30am-10:00pm in the main church.

*Did you know? You can now see all of the events, meetings, and prayer intentions on our online calendar. Go to www.stgeorgeerie.org/news-and-events/calendar

Saint George Roman Catholic Church, 5145 Peach Street
Erie, PA 16509 Call: 814 864-0622,
www.stgeorgeerie.org

YOUR MONEY

Safe Banking for Seniors

The American Bankers Association (ABA) Foundation offers free resources to help older adults and their families prevent elder financial abuse and exploitation. You can select from different categories of common scams to learn more about them and avoid falling victim to such fraud. Categories include, fake check scams, online dating scams, lottery scams, and more! Using this link below, you can browse all of the categories listed to learn about red flags that may come up in your day to day life. Look before you leap! Don't fall victim to internet scams that look legitimate. As always, if you are ever unsure of a situation, you can contact your financial institution for assistance.

<https://www.aba.com/advocacy/community-programs/safe-banking-for-seniors>

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