



EMMANUEL To name someone or something means that we have a relationship with that person. Family names identify us with our heritage; nicknames denote familiarity or a special bond. In the Old Testament, the meaning of a name ran deep. It identified one's mission, even one's very being.

The amazing name "Emmanuel" was first uttered by Isaiah as he described to the frightened King Ahaz the promised one who would come to redeem the people. Emmanuel is not a frightening philosophical name, such as Omnipotent, Omniscient, Almighty. It does not connote distance and transcendence. It does not generate reverential fear. The name Emmanuel implies closeness and intimacy and compassion. Emmanuel is the name given to the one who is coming. It means "God is with us." God is entrusted to the care of a virgin, who will bear this child. Only God would be so compassionate to draw so near, to be so available and vulnerable. Only God could love this well. © Copyright, J. S. Paluch Co.

FAMILY PERSPECTIVE Emmanuel means "God with us." Christmas is a reminder that God is with us in every child. Don't just look at the baby Jesus in the crib; look into the eyes of every child and see the face of God.

THOUGHTS ON GIVING "The Lord's are the earth and its fullness; the world and those who dwell in it. For he founded it upon the sea and established it upon the rivers." Psalm 24:1-2 How can we take credit for the good things in our lives when Psalm 24 reminds us that God created absolutely everything and everyone on the earth? Surely we all have an obligation to return a portion of our good fortune to the Lord, for without Him nothing would be possible.

ADVENT PENANCE CELEBRATIONS Confession of sins is good for the soul. Prepare for Christ's coming in your life – your heart – your home this Advent Season. Experience the forgiveness of our God in the Sacrament of Reconciliation, you will be glad you did. Advent is a time of new beginnings, so take time out of your busy schedule to attend one of the following Penance Celebrations:

Sunday, December 19th – St. Jude
Monday, December 20th – Our Lady of Peace
Tuesday, December 21st – Blessed Sacrament
All celebrations will be held at 7:00pm



Friday, December 24th – Christmas Eve
5:15PM, 7:30PM and Midnight
Saturday, December 25th – Christmas Day
8:00 & 10:00AM

Please note: there is NO 5:15pm Vigil Mass on 12/25



THE LEGEND OF THE CHRISTMAS TREE

While walking on a starlit night through deep and drifting snow, Young Martin saw a glorious sight which all of you may know. Against the wind, an evergreen stood tall and strong and true. Amidst the needled branches, there, the starry sky shone through. "Tis like the glow of heav'n itself," young Martin laughed with glee, "When angels twinkled like the stars that twinkle in this tree." "And look!" he cheered, "The tree itself is pointing up above, directing us to look to God, our source of hope and love." Then Martin had a grand idea. He found a smaller tree, he brought it home and set it up for everyone to see. With candles lit just like the stars, with ribbons and with bows, Young Martin decorated it to share the heavenly glow. So when you see a Christmas tree, you'll know, as Martin knew, that Christ was sent from heav'n above – a gift from God to you.

HEALTH TIP During the holidays do three important things: remain physically active, eat a healthy diet and create quality family time. Go skating, sledding, walking, etc. instead of watching TV or using the computer. Celebrating the occasion (not eating) should be the focus of holiday gatherings. Gather family and friends to enjoy the holidays and create memories.

CHILDRENS LITURGY OF THE WORD will not take place on Sunday, December 26th but will resume on Sunday, January 2.

FAITH MAGAZINE: A NEW BEGINNING On January 7, 2005, the Erie Diocese introduces a new publication, Faith Magazine, that will be mailed to 70,000 registered Catholic households six times a year. The 32-page color magazine will be modeled on the award-winning Faith Magazine that has been published by the Diocese of Lansing, Michigan since January 2000. Faith Magazine is a custom-designed piece written by staff members from the Erie Diocese, featuring local columnists who are taking full advantage of the latest in publishing technology.

The magazine has been successful in other areas of the country because it's based on the same approach as the Gospels, what you will read is one story after another of people's encounters with God. Another primary goal of Faith Magazine is to help remind people why they're Catholic. Bishop Trautman wants every Catholic home to have a good understanding and appreciation for their faith and for all that the Church has to offer. Our Bishop and your parish are committed to reaching out to every Catholic home with Faith Magazine because we want you to belong to something – your local parish; and you belong to someone – Jesus Christ.

The Diocese will also begin to publish a bi-monthly insert that will be included in with the Church bulletin. To help defray some of the publishing costs for our Parish there is a blue envelope in your January packet for your contribution for Erie Publications. We hope you enjoy reading Faith Magazine and will pass it on to friends or family to spread the Faith and bring some inactive Catholics back to Church.

CONGRATULATIONS to the newly elected officers for our Usher's Society: President – Mike Dugan, President Elect – Carmen Rosatti, Vice President – Mark Kloecker, Secretary – Rob Bruno, Treasurer – Dave Baker, Board of Directors – Bob Achille, Jim Horton and Kevin Schlosser.

HOUSE OF HEALING is a small nonprofit organization that gives women involved in the criminal justice system the opportunity to build a better future for themselves and their children in a structured, caring, learning environment. Our goal is to provide the women with opportunities in education, rehabilitation and therapy. We are looking for volunteers who can help transport women to appointments during the day. Please contact Erin Anter at 480-8738 if you are interested in being a volunteer.

May the Peace
of the
Holy Family
be with you
always.



Merry Christmas and Happy New Year
from the Priests and Staff of Blessed Sacrament Parish

The Parish office will be closed on Friday, December 24th and re-open on Monday, December 27th.

The Fourth Sunday of Advent

OUR PARISH FAMILY

Please pray for all of the sick and shut-in of our Parish Family.

THANK YOU The Blessed Sacrament Youth Group would like to thank the parish for the tremendous support during the City Mission Food Drive. Your support allowed us to feed over 100 people and make food donations to our own food bank.

MERCYHURST COLLEGE Since 1982 Mercyhurst College has honored the late Bishop Alfred M. Watson by offering a scholarship in his name to graduating high school seniors from each parish in the Erie Diocese. The scholarship has a value up to \$1,000 per year. For an application for nomination please contact the Parish Office. Deadline is December 31st.



Knights of Columbus

WHAT: Knights of Columbus Informational Meeting

WHERE: Blessed Sacrament Cafeteria

WHEN: Monday, January 3rd at 7:00PM

WHO: All men of the parish 18 years and over are welcome

Come and hear about a Catholic Men's Fraternal Organization that is worldwide with 1.6 million members but yet is parish oriented. See what effect you can have on your community and parish. You CAN make a difference. Please come and see what it is all about. Council 278 will be based at Blessed Sacrament and will meet the first Monday of the month. If you are already a member of K of C from another council and would like to be part of our council please come to the meeting. Refreshments will be served.

CHRISTMAS DECORATORS NEEDED!! If you are interested in helping to decorate the church for Christmas, please join us on Wednesday, December 22 at 6pm in the church.

2005 CALENDAR a 13-month Catholic appointment calendar for your home is available in the lobby of Church. Thanks to Mark Kloecker of the Francis V. Kloecker Funeral Home for his sponsorship of the calendar.

CAFETERIA VOLUNTEERS

Monday 12/20 – Marge Wiertel, Shirley & Jack Kenehan, Marie Delio

Tuesday 12/21 – Melanie Gustafson-Ropski, Carey Young, Mary Fiske, Marie Elsesser, Gina Lintelman, Bill Schriefer

Wednesday 12/22 – Cindi Orlando, Darlene Celline, Joe & Barb McCormick

31 CLUB VOCATIONS – MASS REMINDERS

Monday 12/20 – Joan Braeger, Kay Ingaldi

Tuesday 12/21 – Pat Ungvarsky, Heidi Fratus

Wednesday 12/22 – Gerry Fagan

Thursday 12/23 – Jim Zink, Viola Kuhn

Friday 12/24 – Mary Hoffman

Saturday 12/25 – Donna Reusch

Sunday 12/26 – Shirley Kiehlmeier, Kevin Kunik

MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER Married Couples go home from a Marriage Encounter Weekend more in love with each other than ever! It is a beautiful weekend experience designed for couples of all ages and backgrounds to enrich their marriage. Make this winter special by devoting one weekend to your marriage. For more information contact Jerry & Claire Waldron at 1-800-432-7383 (enter 4163.)

THE SANCTUARY CANDLE will burn this week before the Blessed Sacrament in memory of Cheryl Krasinski Mercer from her family.



Monday, December 20 – Late Advent Weekday

7:00 +Paul A. Ginkel / Family [anniversary]

8:00 +Stephen Radack, Sr. / Family

Tuesday, December 21 – St. Peter Canisius

7:00 +James Reinsel / Family

8:00 +Betty Niebauer / Joe & Evelyn Cuzzola

Wednesday, December 22 – Late Advent Weekday

7:00 +Leroy Hintz / Family

8:00 +Dorothy & Michael Murphy / Family

Thursday, December 23 – St. John of Kanty

7:00 +Clara Bonanno / Bob & Patty George

8:00 +Donald A. Geisler / Family

Friday, December 24 – Late Advent Weekday

8:00 +Richard Grumblatt / Family

Vigil of Christmas

5:15 *People of the Parish

7:30 *People of the Parish

Midnight *People of the Parish

Saturday, December 25 – Christmas

8:00 *People of the Parish

10:00 *People of the Parish

No 5:15 Vigil Mass

Sunday, December 26 – The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

7:30 +Arthur M. Phillips / Dear Friend Ellie

9:00 +James Spaeder / Marie Senger

11:00 +Cheryl Ann Matz / Mom, Dad, Amber & Dylan [anniversary]

7:30 *People of the Parish

SACRIFICIAL GIVING REPORT

December 12, 2004

Weekly Need:	\$ 8,446.15	
Adult Offering:	\$ 6,760.00	484 envelopes
Loose Collection:	\$ 612.61	
Youth Offering:	\$ 34.74	51 envelopes
Total:	\$ 7,407.35	

Religious Retirement \$ 2,569.67

SINCE JULY 1, 2004 (START OF FISCAL YEAR)

Offertory Budget YTD:	\$ 202,707.60
Offertory Received YTD:	\$ 193,397.13
Surplus/Deficit:	\$ -9,310.47

ANNUAL CATHOLIC SERVICES APPEAL

Assessment:	\$ 56,699.00
Pledged to Date:	\$ 31,866.00
Paid to Date:	\$ 32,028.00
# of Pledges:	388

CAPITAL STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

Pledged to Date	\$ 502,225.31
Paid to Date	\$ 427,833.09
# of Pledges	707

