



St. Leo Magnus Roman Catholic Church

A Pennsylvania Charitable Trust

A parish part of the Thirteen Counties of the Diocese of Erie

Faithful Witnesses of Christ's Gospel since 1874

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT + PASSIONTIDE

MARCH 22, 2026

PARISH ADMINISTRATION

The Very Reverend Justin P. Pino, VF,
Pastor
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ext. 2

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Lynne Kucenski, Principal
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hanest@eccss.org (814-834-7800)

MASS SCHEDULE

Weekend Masses

Sat. Vigil: 5:15 pm

Sunday: 8:00 am & 10:00 am

Daily Mass

Tuesdays: 6 pm with **Rosary at 5:45 pm**

Wednesdays - Fridays: 8:30 am and 6:00 pm

Saturdays - 8:30 am

Saturdays: **Rosary is recited at 8:00 am**

Holy Day Masses

Evening before: 6:00 pm

On the day: 8:30 am & 12:05 pm

Sacrament of Penance (Confessions)

Wednesdays: 4-6 pm & Saturdays: 9 am

Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament

Tuesdays + Thursdays: 9 am - 6 pm



“Jesus told her, ‘I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?’ Martha said to him, ‘Yes, Lord. I believe that You are the Messiah!’”

John 11: 25-27

Mass Intentions

Saturday, March 21, 2026 + Lenten Weekday

8:00 am **ROSARY**
 8:30 am **The People of Saint Leo Parish**
 9:00 am **CONFESSION**



Saturday, March 21, 2026 + Vigil for the Fifth Sunday of Lent

5:15 pm **Jim and Eugene Facchine (Family)**

Sunday, March 22, 2026 + Fifth Sunday of Lent

8:00 am **Deceased member of Capital City Hose Co.**
 10:00 am **Don Aiello (Daughters - Mary Ann, Donna and Nancy)**

Tuesday, March 24, 2026 + Lenten Weekday

9:00 am - 6:00 pm **ADORATION**
5:45 PM ROSARY
 6:00 pm **Felcia Nelson (Steve and Barb Vallone)**

Wednesday, March 25, 2026 + The Annunciation of the Lord

8:30 am **Sue Landis (The Girls)**
1:00 pm SOUP + STATIONS + SCRIPTURAL JOURNEY THROUGH THE MASS
4:00-6:00 pm CONFESSION
 6:00 pm **Mr. and Mrs. Harry A. Brian (Ralph and Margaret Tettis)**



Thursday, March 26, 2026 + Lenten Weekday

8:30 am **Mary Foley (Family)**
9:00 am - 6:00 pm ADORATION
6:00 pm PENANCE SERVICE - No Evening Mass

Friday, March 27, 2026 + Lenten Weekday

8:30 am **Eileen Sandberg (Sherry Sandberg)**
 6:00 pm **Richard Allenbaugh, anniv. (Jeannie Allenbaugh)**

Saturday, March 28, 2026 + Lenten Weekday

8:00 am **ROSARY**
 8:30 am **Shirley Rupprecht (Jan Wonderly and Family)**
 9:00 am **CONFESSION**

Saturday, March 28, 2026 + Vigil for Palm Sunday

5:15 pm **The People of Saint Leo Parish**

Sunday, March 29, 2026 + Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

8:00 am **Steve Gausman (Phil Quattrone)**
 10:00 am **Jim Facchine (Family)**

*The Sanctuary Candle before the Blessed Sacrament will burn this week in memory of **John MacDonald** by his family.*



READINGS: 820 - Fifth Sunday of Lent - A

Prayer for a New Bishop

*O Almighty God,
 Pour forth the Holy Spirit upon the Holy Father
 and those who assist him
 in the discernment of our new bishop.
 May the one chosen have the strength
 to be a compassionate leader,
 who models humility and joy.
 Grant him the wisdom of Solomon,
 the courage of the apostles,
 and the tenderness of your Son, the Good Shepherd.*

*We also pray for the Diocese of Erie
 that he is called to serve.
 May we welcome him with open hearts
 and work with him in a spirit of synodality,
 called to listen, collaborate, and build unity.*

*Through the intercession of the
 Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church,
 St. Joseph, the protector of the Church,
 and St. Patrick, the patron of our diocese,
 may we journey the path of life
 with an unwavering focus
 on the hope we have in Christ.*

*For he lives and reigns forever and ever.
 Amen.*

Imprimatur, October 28, 2025
 The Most Reverend Lawrence T. Persico, J.C.L.
 Bishop of Erie



Pope Leo XIV Prayer Intention for March **FOR DISARMAMENT AND PEACE**

Let us pray that nations move toward effective disarmament, particularly nuclear disarmament, and that world leaders choose the path of dialogue and diplomacy instead of violence.

*The wine and hosts for March have been donated in loving memory of
Dr. and Mrs. William Thompson
Michael Thompson
 By the Thompson Family*

Liturgical Ministries March 21 & 22

	Altar Servers	Eucharistic Minister	Lector
Sat, 3/28 5:15 pm	E & H Leuschel	F or K Griech	H Bish M Buck
Sun, 3/29 8:00 am	D LaBenne H Bowen	D Richards	J Allenbaugh M Stager
Sun, 3/29 10:00 am	Washburns	S Fink L Fink N Hoffman	L Caggese D Paige
Money Counters	Team #1	Altar Guild (3/27)	Group 2 Pew 4

SICK AND HOMEBOUND

Please let the Parish Office know if a member of your family is sick and in need of anointing or would like to be placed on our Communion List.

Parish Stewardship

March 15, 2026

CSA, 2026

Offering.....\$6,679

Pledges.....\$20,680

Goal.....\$9,168

Goal.....\$61,135

Online Giving

As we celebrate the resurrection of our Savior this Easter, we invite you to consider offering a gift to Saint Leo Magnus. Your generosity during this sacred season helps us continue our mission and support our community. Head over to our parish website to make a one-time donation or set up automated, recurring giving for the entire year. It's quick and easy when you visit our online giving page www.stleomagnus.org. It's quick, easy, and convenient. We sincerely appreciate your generosity and support. Your contributions are a genuine blessing, and we are profoundly thankful for your kindness.

Ways to Remember

There are many ways to memorialize both living and deceased family and friends:

Mass - \$10/requested date

ADDITIONAL MASS INTENTIONS MAY NOW BE REQUESTED

Candles: Sanctuary, Saint Leo, Saint John of God - \$20/week

Beat the Heat/Cancel the Cold - \$10/date

Have an IRA? Would you like to gift to a qualified charity, tax free?

If you make donations, and are subject to required minimum distributions (RMD) rules for your IRA, gifting some of your RMD income using the qualified charitable distribution will count toward satisfying your RMD, and neither you or the charity will have to pay income taxes. Call the parish office for more details.

Baptism Preparation Class Schedule

Apr 29, 2026	6:00 pm	St. Leo, Ridgway	814-772-3135
May 21, 2026	6:30 pm	St. Mary's, St. Marys	814-781-1019
June 2, 2026	6:30 pm	Queen of the World, St. Marys	814-834-4701

****Be Sure to call ahead to reserve your spot**

Bulletin Deadline - Submit by March 23rd for March 29th bulletin
Submit by March 26th for April 5th (Easter) bulletin

Wednesdays during Lent the Parish Office will close for lunch from 1 - 2 pm so we may attend Lenten Devotions

St. Leo Magnus Church

Parish Office Hours

9 am - noon & 1-4 pm
Ph:814-772-3135

Monday - Thursday
secretary@stleomagnus.org

CONTACT THE PARISH OFFICE FOR YOUR CEMETERY NEEDS

Weekly Wisdom from our Holy Father

“Unified in Christ, Lord and Saviour of every man and woman, the Church can never turn inwards on herself, but is open to everyone and is for everyone. If believers in Christ belong to it, the Council reminds us that ‘All men and women are called to belong to the new people of God. Wherefore this people, remaining one and unique, must extend to the whole world and to all ages, so that the intention of God’s will may be fulfilled, who in the beginning created human nature as one and wants to gather together his children who were scattered’. Even those who have not yet received the Gospel are therefore, in some way, oriented towards the people of God, and the Church, cooperating in Christ’s mission, is called upon to spread the Gospel everywhere and to everyone, so that every person may enter into contact with Christ. This means that in the Church there is, and there must be, a place for everyone, and that every Christian is called to proclaim the Gospel and bear witness in every environment in which he or she lives and works.”

Pope Leo XIV

General Audience Catechesis + 11 March 2026



CEMETERY CLEAN UP!

We're getting ready to clean up the cemetery so mowing can begin. If you'd like to help pick up debris, call the parish office. This is a very easy and enjoyable way to contribute

Marriage Preparation Schedule

Sunday, April 19
St. James, Erie
9am-5pm, Mass included
RSVP 814-899-6178

Fri & Sat, April 24 & 25
Our Lady of Peace, Erie
Fri, 5p-9p & Sat, 9a-1p
No Mass included
RSVP 814-833-7701

St. Leo Fish Fry

Fridays during Lent

4:30 - 6:30 St. Leo

Social Hall

Eat In or Take Out

Cost: \$14.75

Call 814-772-4705

to order take-out



Saint Leo Lent Devotions

STATIONS, SOUP AND A
SCRIPTURAL JOURNEY THROUGH MASS

Every Wednesday at 1 pm

Every Wednesday Fr. Justin will pray a different version of *The Way of the Cross* in Church. Then to the social hall for homemade soup from Fr. Justin's kitchen and reflection on the Biblical Foundations of the Mass.

22:32 MEN'S CONFERENCE

The 13th Annual 22:32 Men's Conference will be held on Saturday, March 7, 2026, at St. Jude the Apostle Parish, Erie. The event will be livestreamed throughout the Erie Diocese and beyond. 22:32 Men seek to live the passage from Luke 22:32 — "But I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned back, strengthen your brothers." Our annual Men's Conference will give participants the opportunity to gain needed tools for this journey. Hundreds of men from all walks of life and from all parts of the Erie Diocese (and beyond) will gather for a day of prayer, dynamic speakers, reflection, Eucharistic Adoration, an opportunity for the Sacrament of Reconciliation, and Mass. For more information, please visit www.2232Men.com or call The Reason for Our Hope Foundation @ 814-455-7364.

Lent Penance Schedule

Mon, March 23	6 pm	St. Mary, St. Marys
Thur, March 26	6 pm	St. Leo, Ridgway
Sun, March 29	2 pm	St. Joseph, Force

WEDDING ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Mark Your Calendars for the 2026 Wedding Anniversary Celebration with Bishop Persico. Couples celebrating 25th, 40th, 50th, 60th or more wedding anniversaries are invited to attend the annual Diocesan Anniversary Celebration. This year's celebrations will be held on Sunday, August 23, 2026, at St. George, Erie, 2:00 pm and Sunday, August 30, 2026, at St. Leo Magnus, Ridgway, 2:00 pm. The registration form and more information will be coming shortly. We look forward to celebrating this beautiful celebration with you in August 2026. Mark Your Calendars!



The Annunciation

The Angel Gabriel appeared and all of Heaven trembled in anticipation. Mary gives her fiat and our long wait is over! Generation after generation of longing and aching for a Messiah comes to fulfillment.

Our parish has a free Formed subscription for you! Simply scan the QR code or visit formed.org/signup to create your account and select our parish to get free access to this content and much more!



ST. JOSEPH, FORCE FISH DINNERS

Ash Wednesday and Fridays during Lent from noon - 6:30 pm. We offer Fantail Shrimp, Haddock Fish (baked/fried), and Pastor's Platter (Fish, Shrimp and Clam Strips) Eat in or Take out. Call 814-787-4151.

ST. BONIFACE LENTEN FISH FRY

Sponsored by Kersey K of C. Ash Wednesday & Every Friday during Lent. 4:00 pm - 6:30 pm in the St. Boniface Social Hall. Dinner Choices: Fried, Baked or Beer Battered Fish, Breaded or Sautéed Shrimp, Choice of 2 sides. Adults: \$16, Kids under 10: \$8.

LUNCH WITH THE LORD

Thursdays during Lent at Sacred Heart Parish Center. Lunch will be served at noon with a brief talk to follow. For reservations, please call 814-781-1019, ext #3.

WALKING WITH JESUS

St. Marys Catholic Elementary School presents Walking With Jesus - A journey with Jesus through the Lenten season in prayer, music, and faith. March 31 at 6 pm at Queen of the World Church.

SACRED HEART SPRING FOOD SALE

Saturday, March 28 9 - 1 pm. at the Sacred Heart Parish Center Baked Good and More! No Pre-Orders

CRS RICE BOWL

God created man and woman in his image, reminding us that every person is sacred and reflects God's love. Each of us has a purpose, woven into God's plan. Our support of CRS Rice Bowl provides hope and opportunity to families around the world. Let's reflect on how our prayers, fasting, and almsgiving can help our sisters and brothers fulfill their potential. Visit crsricebowl.org/week-5 to read this week's Story of Hope.



From the Pastor's Desk

THE PHANTOMS OF THE PASSION – THE SEQUEL 2026 Lenten Meditation Series + Part V – LONGINUS: *Revealed by God*

My dear parish family:

As we soon approach the Paschal Mystery revealed and relived in Holy Week, the Sacred Triduum and finally on Easter Sunday, many Easter-themed movies and series will undoubtedly air on television or be streamed on our devices. One seminal film is George Stevens' lavish four-hour epic *The Greatest Story Ever Told* from 1965. In the film, after the death of Christ, a figure stands, obscured in the shadows, the viewer unable to see his face. It is the centurion, who speaks his famous line from Scripture: "*Truly this was the Son of God.*" Even though the actor's face is hidden, the voice gave him away instantly – it was John Wayne – the great cowboy himself in a Bible movie!



Wayne portrayed the centurion to whom tradition has named Longinus – the last "Phantom of the Passion" to accompany us this Lent. In fact, because Longinus confessed a revealed faith at this pivotal point, by acknowledging Christ as God's Son, the Church honors him to this day. If you go to Saint Peter's Basilica in Rome a gargantuan marble statue of Longinus adorns an alcove near the main altar – the spear that pierced the Lord's side in his hand. The image of the sculpture is at left (←) of this column.

It is significant that the one who pierces Christ's side is a *soldier* and that the soldier uses a *spear* to pierce him. King David in the Old Testament was a type of messianic figure. The soldier Goliath approached David with a spear (1 Sm. 17:45), but David (an ancestor of Jesus – remember He was of the House of David) defeated the giant. Now on Good Friday, another soldier approaches Jesus (the King of the Universe) with a similar spear. David defeated Goliath while David was still alive, but Jesus defeated this other soldier (Longinus) when Jesus was dead. Because through His Passion and Death, Longinus realizes that this man hanging lifeless on a cross, is indeed – truly so – without any doubt know – the son of God! We see the prophecy of the Old Testament coming to completion in the Gospels. David and Jesus – Goliath and the Centurion.

It is also significant that the centurion *pierces Jesus' side and there flows out water, along with blood*. Flip back to the Book of Exodus: Moses struck the rock in the desert with his staff, and there flowed out water for the Israelites lest they die of thirst (Nm. 20:8-13 and Ex. 17:2-7). The rock is Jesus, being fulfilled on Calvary. For St. Paul says that the Israelites "drank from the supernatural Rock which followed them, and the Rock was Christ" (1 Cor. 10:4). The significance of the *water* will be shown below. Other things need to be pondered first.

It is significant that it was the *body* of Christ that was pierced and that His *body* issued forth a flow of water. For the body of Christ is the Temple (Jn. 2:21). And the prophet Ezekiel saw a vision in which an ever-increasing river of water flowed from the temple (ch.47). It is significant that it was the *side* of the body of Christ that was pierced. In Ezekiel's vision of the Temple, the water issued forth from the side of the temple, "from below the threshold of the temple toward the east" (Ez. 47:1). Furthermore, the side is where the heart is accessible. We can therefore plausibly suppose that the *heart* of Christ was pierced by the centurion's lance. It is significant that the water *flowed out* from the side of Christ. Water flows out from fountains. Now, the prophet Zechariah prophesied of a day when "they shall look upon Him whom they have pierced" (Zech. 12:10), furthermore Zechariah says, "on that day there shall be a fountain opened for the house of David and Jerusalem to cleanse them from sin and uncleanness" (Zech. 13:1). The Evangelist John himself refers to this passage of Zechariah in connection with the piercing event (Jn. 19:37). See! The old and new collide. David, Moses, the Temple, Jesus – it all comes together in the events of Good Friday. No wonder when God in His human form expired on the wood of the Cross, the earth shook, lightning flashed, and curtain in the Temple was torn in two! To Longinus, it was now obvious – Jesus was and is God!

As we approach the Cross next week, let us allow the blood and water of Christ to flow over us – wash humanity of our sinfulness, pride, hatred, division and cruelty – and allow us to enter the great mysteries of the Passion, Death and Resurrection of our Lord. His broken, bleeding, beaten and bruised body will be pierced again. He will die again. He will be taken down and laid in the tomb again; but three days are all we will have to wait for Him to rise in glorious beauty on Easter morning. We unite our bodies with His body that day and every day we accept the Eucharistic Lord into our hearts. We are the Body of Christ – pierced and bleeding, but open (as was His side) not to just water and blood, but to salvation and redemption. Are we ready to be like Longinus and shout with joy, conviction and certitude, "Truly He is the Son of God?" Will we say it this Easter, next month, and forever?

*May these reflections help us keep our eyes fixed on Christ crucified,
who walks with us toward the joy of Easter!*

Father Justin