



Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time	Saint Michael Roman Catholic Parish 85 North High Street, Greenville, PA 16125 • (724) 588-9800 Saint Margaret, Mission 701 Denver Street, Jamestown, PA 16134 OFFICE@STMICHAELGREENVILLE.COM WWW.STMICHAELGREENVILLE.COM FB @St. Michael Catholic Church Greenville Pa YouTube St. Michael Greenville	Sunday, September 13, 2026
MASS TIMES Tuesday-Friday, 9:00am (Saint Michael) First Saturday, 9:00am (Saint Michael) Saturday, 4:30pm (Saint Michael) Sunday, 8:00am (Saint Margaret) Sunday, 11:00am (Saint Michael)		
PARISH DIRECTORY Father Thomas Trocchio, Pastor ttrocchio@eriercd.org Deacon Marty Aubel, Parish Deacon Ext. 138 MAubel@eriercd.org Deacon Frank Luciani, Parish Deacon Ext. 139 FLuciani@eriercd.org Patty Meehan, Office Manager Ext. 133 pmeehan@stmichaelgreenville.com Susan Swartzbeck, Business Manager Ext. 135 saintmichaelbiz@gmail.com Chris & Meg Straub, Faith Formation Ext. 136 MStraub@stmichaelgreenville.com	STEWARDSHIP Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time \$ 11,752.22 CSA 2026 Pledged \$ 134,280 Paid \$ 107,600 THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY TO OUR PARISH! BIRTHDAYS The following parishoners celebrate birthdays this week. Wish them a happy birthday if you see them. Peter Resek, Brianne Hake, Bea DeCiancio, Ed Orris, Kevin Hockett, Linda McElhinny, Charlie Demarest. If we missed your birthday it is because your date of birth is not in the data base.	
SANCTUARY CANDLES September 16-31 (Saint Michael) Debbie Chess (Aunt Bonnie & Family) Prayers for Erin Lema Birmingham (Kelly & Shannon) September 16-31 (Saint Margaret) Frank Eber (Jean Eber) Donald & Sissy Pruchnitzky (In loving Memory -Family)	ADULT BIBLE STUDY This fall, the second session studying the book of "Acts" begins. New members are welcome, even if you did not attend the first session! We will meet for 7 Tuesdays Sept 22nd - Nov 3rd; 6:30-8:00pm. The same workbook will be used. Zoom option will be available again. Questions- Contact Deacon Frank 724-854-1579 or Sue Lauffer 724-813-2502.	

MASS INTENTIONS

Tuesday, September 15

Our Lady of Sorrows
Joseph L Fry (Ann Marie & Stephen Fry)

Wednesday, September 16

Saints Cornellius & Cyprian
Harriet Luciani (Patty)

Thursday, September 17

Saint Bellamine & Saint Hildegard of Bingen
Veronica Hiney (Barb Kenan)

Friday, September 18

Tom Duda (Carole)

Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday, September 19

4:30pm For the People of the Parish

Sunday, September 20

8:00am Frances Orris (Virginia Morgan)
11:00am Lynnette Hazi (Ed & Judy Derrick)

CHILD PROTECTION AND CREATING SAFE ENVIRONMENTS

Diocese of Erie Child Protection Policies: Everyone that works and interacts with children should have clear boundaries in place. This includes rules like staying in public view and avoiding isolated one-on-one situations with children and ensuring that two or more adults are always paired together to work with children, as well as other guidelines found in the Policy for the Protection of Children. All those who minister to minors are screened, trained, and must follow the Policy that includes a Code of Conduct. To read the policy go to: <https://www.eriercd.org/childprotection/policies-1.html>. For additional information, contact the Office for the Protection of Children and Youth at 814-824-1195.

LATERAN HALL CLEAN UP

To all able men and women of the St. Michael Parish Community, we are seeking volunteers to help clean up the landscaping around Lateran Hall. We will have a workday slated Saturday September 19th at 8 am to end at 1:00 pm or sooner depending upon our progress. If you can help, please bring gloves and any useful tools such as Weed Eaters and saws and tools to cut small trees. Many hands make light work if we all contribute, we can make the clean up around Lateran Hall a great success.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Sept 14: Morning prayer at 9am.

Sept. 19: Clean up at Lateran Hall 8 am.

Sept. 19: Confessions 3-4 pm.

Sept. 22: Adult Bible Study begins.

Sept. 27: St. Michael Dinner at Lateran Hall.

BISHOP PERSICO'S PRAYER FOR THE SELECTION OF THE NEW BISHOP FOR THE DIOCESE OF ERIE

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.

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

My Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Since my homily last Sunday, I received a couple questions and comments to the affect of, *“is gossiping really a sin and is it really that bad of one?”* Short answer, yes and yes, but lets go a little further, dig a little deeper, shall we?

All of us have “blind spots” when it comes to our attitudes, words, and actions. Gossip can be one of those sins in our life that is there but we rarely even notice it until we see its immediate effects.



So what are we talking about when we are talking about gossip? First, gossip is different than “venting”. I would make the distinction that a person could vent about their own situation with little danger (other than becoming a complainer, which is a whole other article itself). On the other hand, gossip is about others. At its most general, gossip is “talking about others”. There are three forms this can take:

1. The least potentially harmful form is talking about others good qualities. This wouldn't be a sin at all, but the all, but the ancient rabbis cautioned against even this because, as we all know, a conversation about someone else can start off with their good qualities and then turn in a bad direction. We all know why: the good things are boring! We want to know the bad things about a person's character or situation.
2. The next level in “talking about others” is detraction. This is the technical term for gossip. The Catechism of the Catholic Church states that a person is guilty of detraction if they, “without objectively valid reason, disclose another's faults and failings to persons who did not know them” (CCC 2477). It is also continuing to talk about those faults or failings for the purpose of curiosity and not in order to offer help or assistance.
3. The worst step in the category of “talking about others” is calumny. This unusual little term refers to lying about the faults of another in order to damage their reputation. It is clearly the worst because malicious intent is always present (and because it involves lying).

I can't think of anything that more often poisons relationships than gossip. Of course, there are other ways that we can hurt each other, but gossip is everywhere. Gossip always infects and corrupts. We all know this. Talking about the faults or wounds of others causes dissension in families, kills lifelong friendships, and breeds mistrust among peers. It is diabolical. Gossip always infects and corrupts.

I know that that can sound a little dramatic, but I don't think I am exaggerating. I used the term “diabolical” on purpose. In Dante's *Inferno*, the deepest circle of Hell is for the sin of treachery or betrayal. Dante placed famous betrayers in this lowest pit and among them are people who could be classified as “betrayers of family, country, guests, and benefactors”. What does this have to do with gossip?

You could call gossip everyday betrayal. It is a real betrayal, but since it happens so often, the temptation can be to quickly excuse the betrayal as “venting” or the even more deceiving euphemism: “sharing information”. And yet, gossip does not only destroy relationships with each other, it renders our relationship with God void. The Letter of James does not mince words when it comes to watching how we talk about others: *If anyone thinks himself to be religious, and yet does not bridle his tongue but deceives his own heart, this mans religion is worthless*” (James 1:26). To think that some of the worst culprits are those of us who go to church a lot! And Saint James says that, for anyone who gossips, their attempts at religion are worth nothing!

Gossip is so attractive because it not only serves to scratch our curiosity itch, but it also appeals to the “rubbernecker” in all of us. This is why we slow down on the highway to look at the scene of an accident but don't slow down to look at the sunset on the horizon. This is why “the news” is dominated by “bad news”. This is why networks have to add in “feel good” stories at the end of a broadcast; because the news that grabs our attention is the bad stuff. The same is true for our conversations: the news about others that grabs us is the bad stuff.

At its best, gossip is merely a substitute. It is a substitute for real connection. It is a substitute for real processing. And it is a substitute for real action. Rather than addressing the person themselves and their upsetting behavior, we are tempted to tell everyone except the one person who could actually benefit from the conversation. At its worst, it is poison that makes life unbearable. This is why gossip is so bad.

It is worth reflecting on Saint Paul's words to the Ephesians, *Say only the good things that men need to hear; things that will really help them*” (Ephesians 4:29).

Yours in Christ,
Fr. Tom