



St. Theodore's Church

"Broken, we gather. Nourished, we are sent forth."

Pastoral Perspectives

Some of the prophets were not very eager to be chosen. Jeremiah protested that he wasn't really equipped for the job. "I know not how to speak; I am too young" (Jer 1:6). Gideon thought there must be a mistake: "I am the most insignificant in my father's house" (Judge 6:15). But the most reluctant was Moses – or at least the Bible has a better record of his reluctance.

When God in the burning bush tells Moses, he has come to rescue the Israelites from Egypt, Moses is all ears. This has been what everyone has been waiting for. But then God goes on: "Come now! I will send you to Pharaoh to lead my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt" (Exod 3:11). Then Moses begins to back pedal. "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and lead the Israelites out of Egypt?" (Exod 3:11). In a series of five exchanges, Moses racks his brain to come up with some excuse that will convince God to change his mind. But God has made his choice and is not going to change.

The feast of the Baptism of the Lord is a celebration of a stubborn God – who called his Son to mission and who stubbornly calls each one of us to mission and ministry. It is our call to make a difference. Each one of us.

With the billions of people there are in the world, it seems ludicrous for any of us to think that we can make a decision at one point in our lives that will make a difference in the world. "Go, make a difference," we sing. We can take on the action of Christ which we received (or our parents or guardians received for us and that we accepted later at Confirmation) to participate in the transformation of the world.

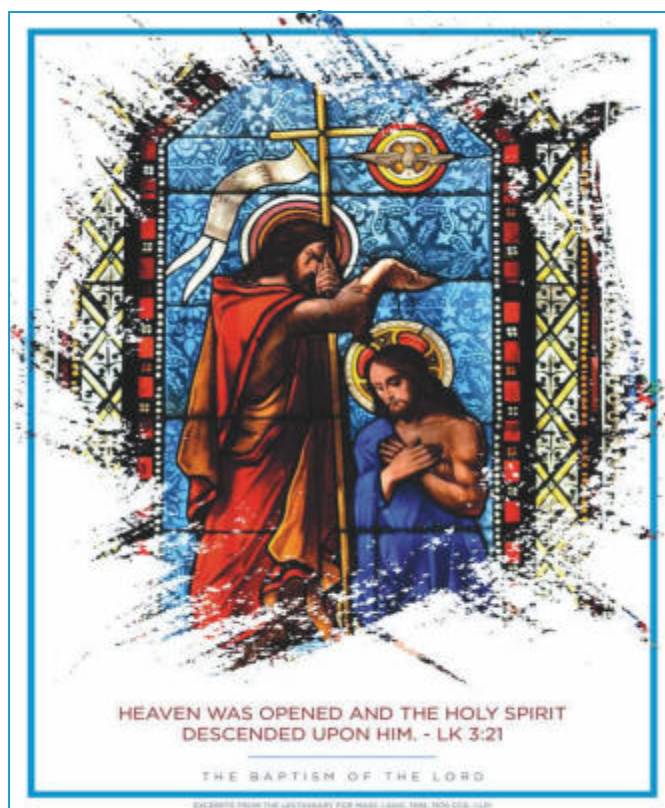
How do we make a difference? The opportunities are endless. For example, write (not e-mail) a letter to a friend you haven't written to in awhile. It isn't that hard; it doesn't take that much. Write a short note on a small piece of paper, put it in an envelope, address the envelope, and take it down to the post office. It will cost you the price of a postage stamp and five minutes of your time to make someone's day.

Give of your time, give of your talents, and give of your resources to make a difference in other people's lives. It is the way of greatness. This is the way of God. Answer God's call.

Thought for the week: Respect honest people, for they have many other virtues.

Smile for the week: The pastor was invited over for dinner and was asked to lead in a blessing for the meal. After a brief prayer, little Billy said approvingly, "You don't pray so long when you're hungry, do you?"

God bless! Have a wonderful week! Fr. Kevin McKenna



168 Spencerport Road, Rochester, New York 14606
 Parish Office: 429-6811 — Fax: 429-7726 — Faith Formation Office: 429-5650
 e-mail: Gsttheod@dor.org — visit us on the web: sttheodoreschurch.com
 like us on Facebook (St. Theodore's Catholic Church—Rochester NY) and
 YouTube (St Theodore Church Gates)

Email gsttheod@dor.org to let us know you want our emails.
 Parish office hours: Monday through Thursday 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.



Hearing
Loop





FIRST RECONCILIATION

The retreat for First Reconciliation has been postponed until January 26 and the ceremony is postponed until February 2.



BLESSING FOR SR. CATHY

As Sr. Cathy starts her retirement, we will have a special blessing for her at all Masses in a few weeks. Once the date is confirmed, we will let you know.

FOOD CUPBOARD

You have been so generous in providing for our food cupboard. Our parish is blessed with such wonderful people. We are very grateful for your assistance

NEEDED ITEM OF THE WEEK:

Canned Pasta



DAILY RAFFLE WINNERS

12/27	Donna Hancock	\$25
12/28	St. Theodore's	\$25
12/29	Christopher Paluskiewicz	\$25
12/30	Shirley Donaldson	\$25
12/31	Isabel Sofia	\$25
1/1	Antoinette Martin	\$50
1/2	Tony Giuseppetti	\$50



Are you new to our parish and want to register as parishioners? We would love to have you.



Please stop at the welcoming table after Mass this weekend to register. A parish council member will be there to help you register and answer any questions that you have.

2022 CALENDARS

Calendars are still available for 2022. You can pick one up in the church entrances or parish office.

Thank you to DiPonzio Funeral Home for supplying them.

CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS

All parishioners who have made monetary contributions in 2021 will receive a statement of their contributions. Statements will be available for pick up the middle of January. All remaining statements will be mailed at the end of January..

TAKE PART IN THE LITURGY

The presentation of the gifts at Mass is a very important role as it marks the beginning of the second major part of the Mass, the Liturgy of the Eucharist.

At the presentation of the gifts, the faithful present the gifts of bread and wine to the priest, symbolizing an offering of creation and themselves back to the Father. This also gives an exterior sign of our internal offerings – we offer our prayers and ourselves in the same way that we offer these mere gifts of bread and wine, hoping that just as they are changed into the Body and Blood of Christ, so may we be transformed by His grace.

We are asking families to take turns presenting the gifts by signing up for a Mass that they attend. Sign up sheets are available in the back of church. Please mark your name for the Mass you would like to present the gifts. If you have booked a Mass for a loved one, please make sure to sign up for that Mass.

When attending Mass for the date you are signed up, please let the ushers know that you are here and where you will be sitting so that they can instruct you on when to gather for the presentation.

Please call the office if you have any questions.

*Eucharistic Chapel
Open 24 Hours*

MONDAY

5:00 PM Faith Formation Classes—Grades 1-5

7:00 PM Faith Formation Classes—Grades 7-8

TUESDAY

7:00 PM Parish Council

THURSDAY

1:30 PM Bible Study



SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION—Saturdays from 3:00 p.m.– 4:00 p.m. or by appointment.

MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER WEEKEND

The next Worldwide Marriage Encounter weekend is planned for January 14-16 at the Notre Dame Retreat House in Canandaigua, NY. Register online at wwme.org.

The WWME weekend teaches communication techniques such as active listening, listening with the heart and empathy towards your spouse's feelings. It is based on the sacrament of Holy Matrimony and expresses the importance of love in the union and encourages this love be taken out into the world in various ministries to serve God by strengthening the couples and families in the church.

The Marriage Encounter gives busy couples much needed time together to focus on each other and deepen their communication. After the Experience, couples often return to their life and families refreshed with renewed commitment to each other.



Recently some parishioners have received emails claiming to be from Fr. Kevin McKenna asking for gift cards, etc.

Fr. Kevin will not email

anyone for money or gifts cards. Please do not respond to these emails. If you have questions, please call the parish office.

COMPUTERS NEEDED

As you may be aware, there has been a significant influx of Afghan refugees into our community. These folks are going to be an invaluable asset to the community - most are very skilled and many speak English because they worked for our Armed forces in Afghanistan. One important tool that they need is a computer. They need computers to keep in contact with others and to search for jobs, etc.

Computers that are relatively new and usable, laptops especially but not exclusively are welcomed.

For more information, please contact Mike Coniff at Rochester Refugee Resettlement Services, Inc., 393 Lexington Ave. Office: 319-3134 or Cell: 732-5803—www.rochesterrefugeenetwork.org

BAPTISMS—Please call 429-6811 to schedule the baptism.

FAITH FORMATION FOR CHILDREN IN GRADES 1-9 INCLUDING SACRAMENT PREPARATION—Contact Maureen Piehler at 429-5650 for information regarding programs.

HOSPITAL CALLS—Please call the parish office to have a priest or pastoral staff visit you while you are in the hospital. Due to privacy laws, we cannot access information about your hospitalization unless you indicate St. Theodore's as your faith community on your admissions forms.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION—Saturdays from 3:00 p.m.– 4:00 p.m. or by appointment.

WEDDINGS—Contact Deacon Dennis at 429-6811 or dennis.lohouse@dor.org as soon as possible to reserve the church **before** you sign a contract with a reception hall.

YOUTH MINISTRY FOR GRADES 6-12—Contact Maureen Piehler for information at 429-5650.

BULLETIN—Email sttheodorebulletin@dor.org at least 10 days before the bulletin date. Pick up a copy of our latest bulletin in the chapel entrance.

Please remember St. Theodore's Church of Gates, NY in your will. Request that memorial donations be sent to our parish upon a loved one's death.

SUNDAY OFFERING ENVELOPES—Please continue to mail in your envelopes on a weekly basis. We are also accepting envelopes in the parish life center during parish office hours. Your financial support is greatly appreciated and needed at this time.

FOOD CUPBOARD—Donations to the Food Cupboard can be dropped off at the parish life center during parish office hours.

<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/16-0755882>
Log into your account and shop away.

**Parish Staff:**

Rev. Kevin McKenna, Pastor

Dennis Lohouse, Deacon

Angelo Coccia, Senior Deacon

Laurence Feasel, Senior Deacon

Anthony Caruso, Senior Deacon

David Paluskiewicz, Senior Deacon

Daniel Leitten, Finance Director

Leigh Ann Lester, Business Manager

Maureen Piehler, Director of Faith Formation and Youth Ministry

Rita Manners, Music Director

Food Cupboard: 429-5360



The Baptism of the Lord

MONDAY Weekday

8:30 A.M. Patricia TeraBassie req. Gates Amita Club

TUESDAY Weekday

8:30 A.M. For those affected by the recent fire in Colorado

WEDNESDAY Weekday

8:30 A.M. Mary Furchill req. Tony & Amy Prezioso

THURSDAY Weekday

8:30 A.M. For Health Care Workers

FRIDAY Weekday

8:30 A.M. Carole Barattini req. Mary Scherzi

WEEKEND MASSES

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

SATURDAY

4:30 P.M. Dolores Brown Moslow req. Rich & Sherry Olliver

SUNDAY

9:00 A.M. John F. Leary req. Family

11:00 A.M. People of St. Theodore's Parish

Bible readings for next Sunday: Is 62:1-5;

1 Cor 12:4-11; Jn 2:1-11(66)



Thank you to the good stewards who continue to support our parish. St. Theodore's is very blessed to have your support especially during this difficult time.

FINANCES FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 26

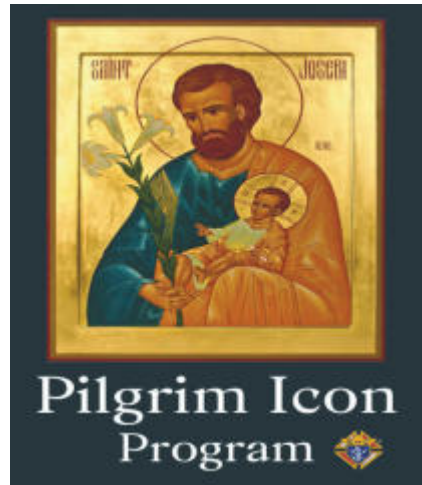
Sunday Collection	\$7,315.25
Maintenance Fund	\$47.00
Attendance	284
Christmas Collection	\$6,989.00
Christmas Attendance	438

FINANCES FOR THE WEEK OF JANUARY 2

Sunday Collection	\$7,679.00
Maintenance Fund	\$485.00
Attendance	329
Solemnity of Mary Collection	\$1,297.00



Congratulations to Deacon Angelo J. Coccia for being awarded the 2021 Archbishop Fulton J Sheen Council 178, Knight of the Year, In Recognition of Outstanding Service, Loyalty, and Devotion to our community.



Please join us for a Pilgrim Icon Prayer Service in Honor of St. Joseph on Saturday January 29, 2022, following the 4:30 mass at St. Theodores.

The prayer service, flowing from the Year of St. Joseph declared by Pope Francis in 2021, and inspired by his apostolic letter *Patris Corde*, is sponsored by Knights of Columbus Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen, Council to honor St. Joseph and pray for his intercession in preserving, cultivating and passing on the Catholic faith to future generations.

Supreme Knight Patrick Kelly chose to entrust his service as Supreme Knight to St. Joseph and through this Pilgrim Icon Program, encourage Knights and their communities to "turn in prayer to St. Joseph, give thanks to God for the gift of fatherly example, and ask St. Joseph to be a father to us" as we seek to "grow in our own imitation of St. Joseph's quiet strength, integrity and fidelity."

In the first year of his pontificate, Pope Francis received the Order's Board of Directors in a private audience, during which the Holy Father said, "I commend all of you in a special way to the intercession of St. Joseph, the protector of the Holy Family of Nazareth, who is an admirable model of those manly virtues of quiet strength, integrity and fidelity which the Knights of Columbus are committed to preserving, cultivating and passing on to future generations.

All members of the community are encouraged to attend.

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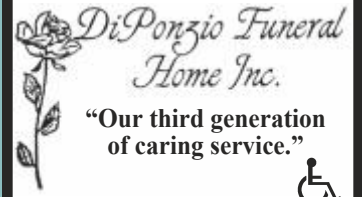
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