Church of the ANNUNCIATION

DECEMBER 27, 2020| THE HOLY FAMILY

LOCATION

7580 Clinton Street
Elma, New York 14059

PARISH CONTACTS

Parish Office
p: 683-5254
f: 681-5668
w: annunciation.cc
e: parishoffice.annunciation@gmail.com
Rectory: 683-2077
Faith Formation: 683-5515
Strong Start Pre-K: 681-1327

MASSES

Morning Prayer & Communion Service
Monday-Friday 7:30am
Daily Mass Monday-Friday 9:00am
Saturday Vigil 5:00pm
Sunday 8:00am, 11:00am and 5:00pm
Holy Day of Obligation check bulletin for times

RECONCILIATION

Confessions are heard each Saturday at 4:00pm or by appointment.

THE HOLY FAMILY

The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him. - Lk 2:40

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD. ©LPi

OUR PARISH NAME IS OUR MISSION!

With Mary, we joyfully announce: "God with us" in Jesus Christ.
Moved by the Holy Spirit, we strive to create a faith community of love and hope, of prayer, welcome and service where others will discover in and with us that Christ is Life!

PASTORAL STAFF

Pastor
Rev. Eugene P. Ulrich
Pastoral Associate - Administration
Deacon James J. Jaworski
Pastoral Associate - Ministry
Deborah A. Keenan, MDiv
Assisting Clergy
Deacon Joseph P. Mercurio
Deacon Dennis W. Kapsiak
Deacon Charles Johnson
Rev. Msgr. Richard W. Siepka
Parish Secretary
Paulette Bruce
Parish Bookkeeper
Anne Swierat
Director of Family Faith Formation
Melissa Weisenburg
Music Director
Cynthia Napieralski
Strong Start Pre-K Director
Carrie D'Attilio
Parish Trustees
Dottie Austin, Michael Skrip
Finance Committee
Lawrence Zielinski, Chair
Pastoral Council
Thomas DiScipio, President

PARISH MEMBERSHIP
Newcomers are invited to contact the Parish Office to register. Adult children need to be registered on their own.

LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION
Letters of Recommendation are issued to members of our parish who are registered at least three months, regularly attend Mass and receive the sacraments.

SACRAMENTS
Baptism: Please contact the Parish Office to arrange to take part in the Baptism Preparation Program.
Marriage: Couples who are planning to marry need to contact the Pastor at least one year in advance of their wedding date.
Anointing of the Sick: The sacrament is administered after the 5:00pm Mass on the first Saturday of the month. Persons who are homebound, in the hospital, or in nursing homes please contact the Parish Office for the Sacrament of Anointing.
RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults): Anyone who wishes to enter the Church or complete their sacraments please contact the Parish Office.

FAMILY FAITH FORMATION
Religious Education and Sacramental Preparation are available for students in Kindergarten through Grade 10.

ANNUNCIATION STRONG START PRE-K
Pre-K 3 is a two-day program, offered on Mondays & Wednesdays or Tuesdays & Thursdays in the morning; Pre-K 4 is Monday-Friday mornings. For more information, contact cdattilio.annunciation@gmail.com.

LITURGICAL LIFE

PASTOR'S LETTER

Dear Friends in Christ:

Within the Octave of Christmas (8 Days), Catholics celebrate The Nativity of the Lord (Dec 25), The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph (Dec 27) and Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God (Jan 1, 2021). We focus our gaze first on the baby Jesus, then on the family and finally on Mary. In our Gospel this weekend according to St. Luke, they (Joseph and Mary) take him (Jesus) up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord. At the temple, Simeon, a righteous and devout man awaiting the consolation of Israel, inspired by the Holy Spirit, takes the child in his hands and praises God for allowing him to live long enough to see "the Christ of the Lord." With him, Anna, a prophetess advanced in age, comes forward thanking God and speaking about the child "to all who await the redemption of Jerusalem." The child's father and mother are amazed at what is being said about Jesus. After "the Presentation," they return to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. "The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him."

In both Infancy narratives (Luke and Mathew) St. Joseph is described as a caring husband and devoted father. Pope Francis, on December 8, 2020, on the 150th anniversary of the declaration of Saint Joseph as Patron of the Universal Church, proclaimed a "Year of Saint Joseph." In his Apostolic Letter, "With a Father's Heart," in Latin "Patris corde," Pope Francis writes of Joseph as a beloved, tender and obedient father. Joseph is courageously and firmly proactive. With the Holy Spirit's gift of fortitude and full of hope, Joseph is able "to accept life as it is, with all its contradictions, frustrations and disappointments." The carpenter of Nazareth is able to turn a problem into a possibility trusting in divine providence. Joseph teaches us the value, the dignity and the joy of work. Taking a cue from "The Shadow of the Father," a book by Polish writer Jan Dobraczynski, Francis describes Joseph's fatherhood of Jesus as "the earthy shadow of the heavenly Father."

The Holy Father wrote Patris corde against the back drop of the Covid-19 pandemic, which he says, has helped us see more clearly the importance of "ordinary" people who, though far from the limelight, exercise patience and offer hope every day. In this way they resemble Saint Joseph, "the man who goes unnoticed, a daily, discreet and hidden presence," who nonetheless plays "an incomparable role in the history of salvation." At the conclusion of his letter, the Pope adds a prayer to St. Joseph, which he encourages us to pray together.

Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer,
Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary.
To you God entrusted his only Son;
in you Mary placed her trust;
with you Christ became man.
Blessed Joseph, to us too,
show yourself a father
and guide us in the path of life.
Obtain for us grace, mercy, and courage,
and defend us from every evil. Amen.

January 1, 2021 is the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God. Masses are on Thursday at 5 PM and on Friday at 9 AM. Wishing you a Blessed New Year.

Fr. Gene Ulrich

SUNDAY'S READINGS

First Reading:
The Lord took Abram outside and said,
"Look up at the sky and count the stars, if you can.
Just so," he added, "shall your descendants be." (Gn 15:5)
Psalm:
Th Lord remembers his covenant for ever. (Ps 105)
Second Reading:
By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place
that he was to receive as an inheritance;
he went out, not knowing where he was to go. (Heb 11:8)
Gospel:
The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom;
and the favor of God was upon him. (Lk 2:40)

GOSPEL MEDITATION
ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE

Tragedy and disappointment are inevitable. What sees you through this? There will be challenges, changes, unexpected circumstances, interrupted plans, hurts, and injustices experienced by every human being at some point in their lives. We will be asked to adjust our plans, change course, and even encounter suffering and death. Where do we learn all of the lessons we need to live life well? Some of them we learn along the way but much of what we bring to life, positive and negative, comes from our early beginnings, our families. This is our early world and provides the blueprint for how we see the bigger, more inclusive world, which unfolds before us.

Our families of origin can be sources of grace, heartache or a combination of both. Families are intended to be pivotal in providing us with proper social structure and understanding, a support system, lessons about relationships and communication, and the unconditional acceptance and love we so desperately crave. They can also determine whether we have an accessible and healthy relationship with God. Many of life's challenges can literally bring us to our knees and require that we possess a strength of character that resides well beyond the superficialities of our world. At some point we will all need three coping gifts that can be given to us only by God: faith, hope, and love. Our families help us learn that we are not the ones responsible for their creation, but God!

Our experience of early family life colors all of our relationships and what we expect to achieve from life in general. Resolving conflicts, dealing with difficulty and suffering, celebrating accomplishments, prioritizing our needs, listening to God's call, understanding relationships, understanding disappointment, learning about the virtues and living a centered focused life are all lessons our families either succeed in teaching or do not. To succeed, as God has designed and ordered our world, is to discover his presence and then trust that Presence. The Holy Family can teach even the most dysfunctional family how to best use God's gifts of faith, hope, and love to find him and do his will. Their simple humble example is always before us, showing us the way. Jesus, Mary and Joseph, pray for us!

©LPi

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, December 26
St. Stephen, First Martyr
5:00pm Margaret Streicher
by Husband & Family

Sunday, December 27
The Holy Family
8:00am Terry Galanis
by Terry Felong
11:00am Jack Emmi
by Mickey & Jean Evenick
5:00pm Elizabeth M. Harzynski
by Tony & Maria Vilardo

Monday, December 28
The Holy Innocents, Martyrs
9:00am Intentions of Annunciation Parishioners

Tuesday, December 29
St. Thomas Becket, Bishop & Martyr
9:00am David Browne
by Dick & Diane Smith

Wednesday, December 30, 2020
9:00am Marvin and Aleen Miller
by Young Family

Thursday, December 31, 2020
St. Sylvester I, Pope
9:00am David Browne
by Dick & Diane Smith
5:00pm Joan Leigh
By Ron & Gretchen LaBrake

Friday, January 1, 2020
Mary, The Holy Mother of God
9:00am Alice Daniel
by Edward Daniel

Saturday, January 2, 2020
Sts. Basil the Great & Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops & Doctors
5:00pm Anna Plott and Mary Alfaro
by Ron & Gretchen LaBrake

Sunday, January 3
The Epiphany of the Lord
8:00am Shari Varney
by Shirley & Florian Markowski
11:00am Gerald D. Forys
by Laurie Beris
5:00pm Jackie Blodgett
by Mary Pittner

STEWARDSHIP

DATE	12.13.20
Collection	6,435.00
Electronic Giving	3,022.00
Preservation Fund	265.00
Picnic	1,815.00
Memorial Fund	0.00
Bequests/Wills	0.00
Youth Big Board	325.00
Total	**11,862.00**

Thank you to all who are currently electronically donating. Each week our parish receives a steady and predictable stream of income from givers who make an electronic commitment. To easily, safely and securely donate, please go to our website, www.annunciation.cc and click on Online Giving at the bottom of the page to make a recurring or one-time gift. You have the option on where to direct your donation. Please contact the Parish Office if you need help.

IN OUR PRAYERS ...

Kathy Ann, Judy Augustyn, Aelin Beck, Dawn Marie Buono, Eugene Burry, Greg Chatham, Stella (Barb) Craig, Marnie Czarnecki, Frances Evans, A.C. Furtney, Eric G., Irene Garvey, Lucas Gryzbowski, Kim Harding, Tim Jaworski, Sharon Kaiser, Cass Ketten, Donald King, Marilyn Kinmartin, Barb Komendat, Daniel Kubik, Fr. John P. Mack, Lorne LeMieux, Patricia O'Brien, Bella Pellittieri, Bob Pickup, Jeffrey Pieczynski, Barbara Plezia, Jim Purpora, Harold Renaud, Judy Schaubel, Ellieanna Schiffman, Jim Schultz, Marge Schultz, Mark Skimmer, Jan Turnbull, Kim Vallaincourt, Rachelle & Edson Walker, Ron Wenzel, Lillian Williams, Gina Williams, Mark Williams, Thad Woronowicz, Denise Zgoda, Shirley Ziegler, and Deacon Frank Zwack. **The safety of and quick return of those serving in the Armed Forces.**

REST IN PEACE

Betty Wood
Joyce Mathis
Gini Schultz
Anthony Oliva

FAITH FORMATION

FAMILY CONNECTION

Today's celebration of the Feast of the Holy Family highlights the importance of family in our religious life. We know that Mary and Joseph's faithfulness to God enabled them to cooperate in God's plan for our salvation by accepting the responsibility to raise God's Son, Jesus. From his parents, Jesus learned how to be a faithful believer in his Jewish tradition. Simeon's prophecy about Mary's sorrow alerts us to the importance of a family's commitment to one another, a commitment that is expressed in both good times and bad.

Gather as a family and recall times when your family showed its commitment to one another in good times and in bad. Recall times when your immediate family was supported by members of your extended family. Note that today we celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family, and we see in the family of Jesus an example for our own family life. Read together today's Gospel, Luke 2:22-40. Joseph and Mary expressed their faithfulness to God through their observance of the Law of Moses. Simeon prophesied the grief that Mary would experience at the foot of Jesus' cross. One of the blessings of family life is our commitment to one another, sharing good times and supporting one another through difficult times. Conclude in prayer together thanking God for the grace expressed in your family's commitment to another. Write a prayer together, thanking God for your family life and asking God to strengthen your family's commitment to one another. Pray this prayer together.

LIVE THE LITURGY - INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

While families come in all shapes and sizes and no two are the same, they all need a common focus and grounding. Families are intended to be pivotal in providing us with a proper social structure and understanding, a support system, lessons about relationships and communication and the unconditional acceptance and love we so desperately crave. In additional to all of these things, the axis of every family has to be centered on faith. It is here that we can learn about the virtues and discover the windows to God Himself in His gifts of faith, hope, and love. We can learn, modeling our experience after the Holy Family, how to use these as anchors in our lives so that we can live out the other virtues with greater integrity. Because our human families struggle with weakness and sin, we have to come back to the Holy Family often for inspiration and guidance. In the bond of love that they shared, they clung to the anchor of God Himself and endured challenges far greater than many we will ever face. ©LPi

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

SUN, 12/27	Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or Gn 15:1-6; 21:1-3/Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5 [cf. 1] or Ps 105:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9 [7a, 8a]/Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17 or Heb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19/Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22, 39-40
MON, 12/28	1 Jn 1:5—2:2/Ps 124:2-3, 4-5, 7b-8 [7]/Mt 2:13-18
TUES, 12/29	1 Jn 2:3-11/Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 5b-6 [11a]/Lk 2:22-35
WED, 12/30	1 Jn 2:12-17/Ps 96:7-8a, 8b-9, 10 [11a]/Lk 2:36-40
THURS, 12/31	1 Jn 2:18-21/Ps 96:1-2, 11-12, 13 [11a]/Jn 1:1-18
FRI, 1/1	Nm 6:22-27/Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8 [2a]/Gal 4:4-7/Lk 2:16-21
SAT, 1/2	1 Jn 2:22-28/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4 [3cd]/Jn 1:19-28
SUN, 1/3	Is 60:1-6/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13 [cf. 11]/Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12

NEWS & EVENTS

UPCOMING EVENTS

PARISH OFFICE

The Parish Office is open by appointment only. Please call 683-5254 or email pmb.annunciation@gmail.comfor an appointment. When possible, transactions may be done by phone, fax, email or mail. Face coverings must be worn when entering the office, with no more than two visitors at a time.

The Parish Office will be closed on Friday, January 1, 2020 in observance of New Year's Day.

UNITED STATES BANKRUPCY COURT FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

In re The Diocese of Buffalo N.Y.
Case No. 20-10322

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE THAT, On February 28, 2020, The Diocese of Buffalo N.Y., ("Diocese") filed for protection under chapter 11 of title 11 of the United States Code (the "Bankruptcy Code").

The Bankruptcy Court has established August 14, 2021 at 11:59 p.m. (prevailing Eastern time) as the deadline to file proofs of claim against the Diocese (the "Bar Date").

If you have a claim against the Diocese, including, without limitation, a claim related to sexual abuse committed by any person connected with the Diocese, you must file a claim on or before the Bar Date.

Please visit https://case.stretto.com/dioceseofbuffalo or call (855) 292-7696 for more information on how to file your proof of claim.

IF YOU DO NOT TIMELY FILE A PROOF OF CLAIM, YOU MAY FORFEIT YOUR RIGHT TO VOTE ON ANY PLAN OF REORGANIZATION AND TO SHARE IN ANY DISTRIBUTIONS TO CREDITORS IN CONNECTION WITH THE DIOCESE'S CHAPTER 11 CASE.

FISH OF EAST AURORA

Our *FISH* gift for the month of December is Canned Fruit. Please be mindful of expiration dates.

A VOCATION VIEW - FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY

The Holy Family - Jesus, Mary and Joseph– always supported each other in doing God's will, even when it involved hardship. As the family of God's children, we must help each other follow God's will. Let us not stand in the way of those whom God has called to a Church vocation. Invite them to contact Fr. Dave Baker at 716-847-5535 or visit buffalovocations.org

Like us on Facebook

Don't forget to like our Facebook page at
www.facebook.com/annunciationelma
to be updated on all the latest news and events associated with our Parish.

EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

The Gift of Family

What a year it has been! How will we speak of these times a decade from now? As time goes by, our impressions of this past year will certainly change. How we feel today about dealing with a killer virus and all the chaos surrounding that is still fresh for all. I would assume that most of us right now are also holding those we love a little closer and hugging them a little harder. Hopefully, even if the fears and concerns of 2020 dissipate in the future, the way we feel toward our family should never leave us.

Stewardship is certainly about everything. God has given us so much, great and small, profound and common. One of the greatest gifts that all have received is family. Families take all shapes and sizes and some look very different than others. For some, family is a caretaker or temporary guardian. For others it is a friend when everyone else seems to have vanished. The bottom line is that, to quote a song from many years ago, "people need people."

When God gave the world His only Son, the Incarnation did not come on a cloud or with a flash of light. He was born into a family. Jesus understood the gift of family all his life. Do you think that if having a family wasn't important God would have still included this in the plan of salvation? As this year draws to a close, remember your stewardship many days begins and ends with the people closest to you. Don't misuse or take for granted this precious gift. God gives us gifts on purpose, even to His only begotten Son.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS ©LPi

URBAN-
Amigone
FUNERAL HOME
7540 Clinton Street, Elma
681-8844
Call today for a free consultation

LC LAKESIDE CONCRETE
Colored/Stamped
Patios - Walks - Driveways & More
89 Brandel Avenue | Lancaster, NY
- 686-9591 -
LakesideConcreteServices.com

HUNT Since 1917
HUNT Real Estate RA
728 Main St.
East Aurora, NY 14052
Always There For You
ERA
Sarah Kieffer, Parishioner
Licensed Real Estate Salesperson
ofc: 716-652-1234 • cell: 716-512-3806
sarah.kieffer@huntrealestate.com
HUNTREALESTATE.COM

WAGNER MONUMENTS
MONUMENTS,
MARKERS, URNS, VASES
CEMETERY LETTERING
892-5505 • 2953 GENESEE ST.
Between Harlem & Union

St. Adalbert's Cemeteries
Serving WNY since 1890
6200 Broadway • Lancaster, NY 14086
1621 Dale Road • Cheektowaga, NY 14225
681-3090

A&M AUTOMOTIVE
Mark and Amy Mercurio
Owners
716-652-4222
1131 Bullis Rd
Elma, NY 14059
REPAIR • COLLISION • RESTORATION

Cy's
ELMA VILLAGE PHARMACY
Daily: 9-9, Sun: 10-5
2317 Bowen Road
652-3920
Celebrating Over 50 Years in Elma

PHYLLIS M. TODORO, ESQ.
PARISHIONER
SERVING YOUR FAMILY'S LEGAL NEEDS
2340 BOWEN RD. (SIMME PLAZA)
716.652.0061

SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL PARISH.
Buy a bulletin ad space today!

elma press
Complete Printing Service
5751 Clinton St.
683-6812
Quality Color Printing
at Attractive Prices

GTF
PLUMBING • HEATING • COOLING
Licensed and Insured Professional Solutions
716-655-4803
GTF Plumbing Heating and Cooling Inc.
11501 Coleman Road, Elma, NY 14059 | GTFPlumbing.com

Camellia
Since 1933
Boneless Ham. Ask for it
at your Favorite Deli.
"Brand Deli Ham & Turkey Breast"
716-893-5353

YOUR CHOICE
FOR COLLISION
& MECHANICAL REPAIRS
GILLEN'S
Expert Auto, Inc.
12089 BROADWAY, ALDEN, NY
(716) 937-9343

Edwards APPLIANCE
5130 Transit Rd. • Lancaster
684-8888
Joe & Donna Bialecki
BRAND SOURCE
Your Neighborhood Expert
Since 1956

Too Sick for Mass?
SUPPORT OUR PARISH NO MATTER WHERE YOU ARE!
Sign-up to get your bulletin delivered
right to your inbox!
www.parishesonline.com

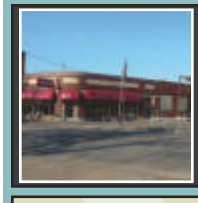
AVAILABLE FOR A LIMITED TIME
ADVERTISE YOUR BUSINESS HERE
Brett Burt • bburt@4LPi.com • (800) 477-4574 x6443

Commercial • Residential
Since 1968
Macken Services Inc.
Septic Systems Installed & Repaired
Cleaning of Grease Tanks & Septic Tanks
683-0704 • 741-0003
Our Business Stinks!

FREE AD DESIGN WITH PURCHASE OF THIS SPACE.
– 800-477-4574 –

KOSZKA & SOKERO, CPAs
ALETHEA N. SOKERO, CPA
Partner
3859 N. Buffalo Rd., Suite 4
Orchard Park, NY 14127
asokero@twc.com / Cell: 716-598-0992
2nd location in North Port, Florida
Taxation – Individuals, Estates, Businesses, Trusts
IRS & State Tax Authority Representation
Accounting & Business Consulting
Audits, Reviews, Consolidated Financial Statements
Start-Up Businesses, QuickBooks Expertise
~ Available Year Round ~

Paul A.
KLOC
BLOSSOM CHAPELS, INC.
Pre-Planned Funeral Arrangements Available
668-5666
4680 CLINTON ST. • W. SENECA (1/2 MILE W. OF TRANSIT)


Southtowns Showroom
914 Ridge Road,
Lackawanna, NY 14218
(716) 824-9278

STONE Art EST. 1857
MEMORIAL COMPANY INC.

Northtowns Showroom
2598 Sheridan Drive,
Tonawanda, NY 14150
(716) 832-0900

THIS SPACE IS AVAILABLE

JA JANDO PLUMBING
"Honest and Dependable Service Since 2000"
Jim Ando Plumbing, Inc.
4534 Clinton St, Ste 6, West Seneca, NY 14224
716-771-3601 • www.andoplumbing.com

Charles Meyer
Funeral Home, INC.
13228 Broadway • Alden
716-937-7411