

OUR MISSION

St. John de LaSalle is a welcoming Roman Catholic community that seeks to live the Gospel message of Our Lord Jesus Christ. We embrace our faith and support our members through: prayer, worship, evangelization, loving service and fellowship, life-long education and responsible stewardship. We are grounded in the Sacraments and we place the worship of Christ in the Eucharist at the center of our parish life. In gratitude for our many gifts, talents and blessings, we respond with compassion to the spiritual and corporal needs of all.

BAPTISMS

Parents should call the Pastoral Care Office soon after the birth of the child to arrange to attend the baptism preparation class, held on the last Wednesday of each month. Baptisms are scheduled for the first and third weekend of the month after the 11:15 or 4:30 Mass, or they can be done during the 11:15 or 4:30 Mass.

LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION

Please call the PCO during regular office hours to determine if you are eligible to receive a letter of recommendation. Letters of recommendation (to act as a sponsor for Baptism or Confirmation) may be issued to currently registered parishioners who attend Mass, are confirmed and married in the Church.

MARRIAGES

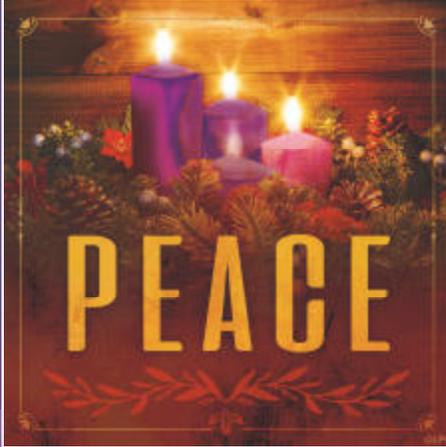
Couples should begin planning with the parish at least six months prior to the wedding date. A marriage program is an essential part of the planning process.

MINISTRY TO THE SICK

Please contact the Pastoral Care Office to arrange for pastoral visits for hospitalized or homebound parishioners.

**Together in Faith
Since 1907
December 20,
2020**

**Fourth Sunday Of
Advent**



**PASTORAL CARE OFFICE
716-283-2238 EXT. 302/301**

Monday through Friday:
9:00 a.m.- 4:00 p.m.

Pastor. Ext. 308
Emergency Only 579-4949
OfficeExt. 302/301
Faith Formation 283-5140
Ext. 304
Community Care / Food Pantry -
Mrs. Lynn Siegfried622-5880

LITURGY SCHEDULE

Saturday Vigil:..... 4:30 p.m.
Sunday Mass:..... 8:45am, 11:15am
Weekdays:..... 8:00 am (Monday thru Friday)
Tuesday:.....6:30 pm St. Jude Novena
Followed By Mass at 7:00 pm. Anointing Of The Sick On The First Tuesday Of Each Month.
Eucharistic Adoration:Thursday 8:45 -
Midnight!

Non Gluten Eucharist Available On Request

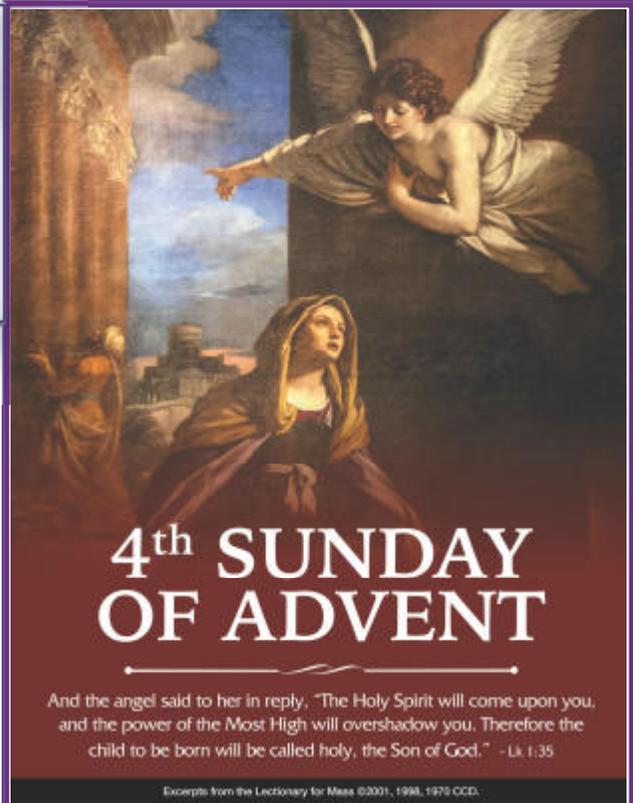
Restroom w/changing table located near daily chapel; there is another restroom in the west foyer.

CONFESSIONS

Saturday: 3:45 p.m. to 4:15 p.m.

PASTORAL TEAM

Pastor: Rev. Slawomir Siok, SAC
Office Administrator: Mrs. Mary Newman
Office Assistant: Mrs. Cynthia Tripoli
Faith Formation: Mrs. Marybeth Simoneit
Music Leaders: Mrs. Christy Murty
Mr. Jeff Paterson
Trustees: Miss Janet Furlong
Mr. Michael Casale
Parish Council: Mr. Andrew Touma



**4th SUNDAY
OF ADVENT**

And the angel said to her in reply, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God." - Lk 1:35

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1979 CCD.

Parish Center: 716-283-7916 • Fax: 716-283-7973

Email: stjohndelasalle@juno.com • Website: www.stjohndelasalle.org

8477 Buffalo Avenue • Niagara Falls, New York 14304

December 20, 2020
Fourth Sunday Of Advent
Liturgy of the Hours—Seasonal Proper

Saturday, December 19, Late Advent Weekday

8:00 am Peace

3:45 pm—4:15 pm Confessions In The Chapel

4:30 pm Stephen Pochatko by Wife & Sons

Sunday, December 20, Fourth Sunday Of Advent

8:45 am John F. Wayda by Family

11:15 am Mr. & Mrs. Francesco Nolfé & Family by
Great Granddaughter

**Monday, December 21, Saint Peter Canisius, Priest
And Doctor Of The Church**

8:00 am People Of The Parish

Tuesday, December 22, Late Advent Weekday

8:00 am Edward Miodonski by Estate

6:30 pm St. Jude Novena

7:00 pm Barbara Joseph

**Wednesday, December 23, Saint John Of Kanty,
Priest**

8:00 am Pedro & Isabel Martinez & Lee & Jane
Bickford by Nancy & Angel Martinez

Thursday, December 24, Late Advent Weekday

2:30 pm Parishioners Special Intentions

4:00 pm Alice Hansen by Family

Midnight Anna Fahs (Birth) by Lynn & Chuck

**Friday, December 25, THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD
(Christmas)**

8:45 am Deceased Members Of The Drozek & Tripoli
Families by Peter & Cindy Tripoli

11:15 am Patricia A. Maloney by Family

**Saturday, December 26, Saint Stephen, The First
Martyr**

4:30 pm Elmer & Stella Maurer by Daughter Patricia

**Sunday, December 27, THE HOLY FAMILY OF
JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH**

8:45 am Diane Scalia by Sisters

11:15 am Robert J. Story, Jr. & Geri Stutzman by Ann
Nolfé

Please pray for our ill and hospitalized: Tim Coughlin, Anne-Marie S., Daune Calovini, Tim, Lora Pfohl, Chris Nelson, Ron, Michele Promowicz Newman, Andrew Montoro, Gail Jakubowski, Jack Ozyp, , Cathy D'Angelo, Ryan Welsh, Will, Amelia Morganti, Bob & Christine Belkota, Kevin White, J. White, Little J., MCL, Doug, Kay M. Z., Bob Carr, Matthew Smith, Dave DeLuke, Suzanne DeLuke, John C., Emilia Kobus, Brad Ludwig, Gabrielle Wittkop, Rosemary, Vikki H, Hank Buchalski, Barb Anthony, Inez, John Butler, Joanne I. Philbrick, Violet Iadicicco, Joel Rivera, Alex, Jim & Denise Clapps, Kristy, Lynn Kowalski, Ken Shebelle, Monica Pietras, Richard, Carol Buchalski, Anastasia Rafter, Carrie Wheeler, Baby Sammy, Rose Muto, Olivia P., Kim Z., Jude Holka, Kelly Metzinger, Joe Ceretto, Linda Marino, Tricia Papke; Shirley Kostoff, Chester Bradley, Kellianne Laughing, Jean DeMarco, Norma Genovese, Paul Hogan, Sharon Costanzo, Joel Rivera, Jessica McDowel, Todd Littlewood, Andrew Mrzygut

**The Sanctuary Light Burns With Unceasing Prayer
In Front Of The Blessed Sacrament For The
Month Of December In Memory Of The Hansen &
Burden Families By Sharon!**

**There is no Eucharistic Adoration Christmas Eve
or New Year's Eve. We will resume Adoration on
Thursday, January 7, 2021.**

The House That God Built

There was a time when we could trace the trail of buildings constructed by immigrant Catholics in this country like a life line on a beautiful human hand. Those of us who benefited from the countless churches and schools owe an unfathomable debt to the hardworking men and women who contributed their labor and their savings to secure our legacy as a people of faith. I often have occasion to tell our seminarians that when they preside at the funeral for an elderly parishioner, remember the gratitude we owe them for what we are today.

This experience must come close to what King David was feeling: that God gave us the place of a wonderful core to celebrate, to "sing of the goodness of the Lord," as the responsorial psalm puts it today, only to discover that the divine design has changed. Perhaps this mystery gestures toward Paul's insight to the Romans that there is a hidden dimension to God that we will never understand in this life, a mystery kept secret to be disclosed in prophetic writings over time.

Salvation history shows us that God reveals himself in history as he chooses. As the architect of the human heart, only God decides where he will take up residence. Heaven help any of us who attempt to control or domesticate the living God. It is God's house to build.

It is clear that when the Lord spoke to Nathan that the plan for King David has shifted from security to legacy, from a kingly place to a family tree. This prophecy is an invitation to a new generativity, one that will outlive brick and mortar, which is something transitory that will pass away with the ages. This oracle looks forward to the definitive revelation God gives us in Christ, which we will soon celebrate.

As we listen once more to look's matchless account of the Annunciation, we can only be reminded that God has once again chosen to live in a house not made by human hands, but by his own fashioning. Mary becomes the unique vessel for One who will bring forth a Holy Foundation for her House of Gold, her Tower of Ivory. Here again, God will do a new thing, but this time the prophetic utterance will be spoken in fullness, never to be repeated. Like the mystery of God's own indwelling, Mary hides this hidden secret, until the fullness of time would come for him to be born of a woman. That House that God built is the only legacy we need as we become stewards in the Lord's household, opening the door to both stranger and guest in Christ's name.

By Fr. Gueric DeBona

Feast Day—December 23—Greatly revered in his native Poland, this saint, also known as John Cantius, spent most of his life teaching at the University of Krakow, where he was a noted professor of sacred Scripture. He also spent an interval as a parish priest, reputedly forced on him because of academic jealousy. At the university, he impressed on students the need for moderation and good manners in controversy and was famous for his boundless generosity to Krakow's poor. A personal austerity contributed to his reputation for holiness: He ate no meat and slept on the floor.

The 2021 Breaking Bread Missalettes' are now available before and after all the masses. To defray the cost of shipping I am asking each person who wishes to receive a book to pay \$5.00. There will be someone available before and after each mass to hand them out. I appreciate your help with the shipping cost.

Every Week We Need \$5500.00 To Cover Our Weekly Expenses!

Regular Collection For December 6, 2020: \$4921.00 (89%)
Monthly Collection: \$185.00, **Utilities:** \$100.00, **Children's Collection:** \$12.00, **Community Care:** \$1080.00, **Campaign Human Development:** \$5.00, **Christmas Flowers:** \$400.00, **Votives:** \$28.00, **Christmas Offering:** \$140.00, **Immaculate Conception:** \$235.00, **All Saints Day:** \$5.00, **All Souls Day:** \$5.00, **Oplotka:** \$16.00, **Catholic Education:** \$20.00, **Religious Retirement:** \$717.00, **Solemnity Of Mary:** \$30.00, **Debt Reduction:** \$508.00, **Mail:** \$1014.00.
Online Giving: 12/01/20—12/06/20:
Regular Collection: \$360.00, **Community Care:** \$50.00, **Utilities:** \$25.00, **Debt Reduction:** \$5.00, **Monthly:** \$100.00.

A **BIG THANK YOU** to all who have kept our Church running during this pandemic. We rely on your weekly envelope donations and even if you cannot make it to church, please try to keep up with your envelopes, we still have bills to pay and now that the colder weather is upon us, we will have an increase in heating and electric.

Christmas Greetings!!

"The saying is trustworthy and deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners..." 1 Tm 1,15

Dear Parishioners,

Christmas is here again! There are so many wonderful Christmas pleasures to be had: carols, gifts, dinners, well wishes, parties, etc., let us not lose site of the true meaning of this solemnity. In this short sentence, Saint Paul spoke to young Timothy: "Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners." There is no other person who can save us, only the Savior Jesus can save! My wish is that the truth about the essence of God will give you much joy and peace deeply within you, and that you will receive him and experience him personally, as Saint Paul, who in the second part of the quote above adds: "Of which I am the first" 1 Tm 1, 15. We are thankful that Christ not only came to save the worst of sinners, but to save all sinners in general, even this particular sinner who I am.

Let us make the most of this great Gift. He is our Savior! He is present in the Word and Sacraments, especially in the sacrament of the Eucharist. Let's go to the altar and before the Tabernacle to seek Him the Savior, that we may abundantly draw from the spring of salvation. May our Christmas and the New Year be radiant with the Grace of the Savior!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year 2021!

Yours In Christ,

Rev. Slawomir Siok, S.A.C.

Blessing of a Christmas Tree

"Mary said, "Behold, I am the handmaid of The Lord. May it be done to me according to your word." -LK 1-38

Christmas is almost here! Have you blessed your Christmas tree yet?

According to custom, the Christmas tree is set up just before Christmas and may remain in place until the Solemnity of Epiphany. The lights of the tree are illuminated after the prayer of blessing.

In the home the Christmas tree may be blessed by a parent or another family member, in connection with the evening meal on the Vigil of Christmas or at another suitable time on Christmas Day.

When all have gathered, a suitable song may be sung.

The leader makes the sign of the cross, and all reply "Amen."

The leader may greet those present in the following words:

Let us glorify Christ our light, who brings salvation and peace into our midst, now and forever.

R/. Amen.

In the following or similar words, the leader prepares those present for the blessing:

My brothers and sisters, amidst signs and wonders Christ Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea: his birth brings joy to our hearts and enlightenment to our minds. With this tree, decorated and adorned, may we welcome Christ among us; may its lights guide us to the perfect light. One of those present or the leader reads a text of sacred Scripture, for example, Titus 3:4 (lines 4-7) or Ezekiel 17:22 (lines 22-24 4; I will plant a tender shoot on the mountain heights of Israel.)

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

R/. Thanks be to God.

The intercessions are then said. The leader says:

Let us ask God to send his blessing upon us and upon this sign of our faith in the Lord.

R/. Lord, give light to our hearts.

That this tree of lights may remind us of the tree of glory on which Christ accomplished our salvation, let us pray to the Lord. R/.

That the joy of Christmas may always be in our homes, let us pray to the Lord. R/.

That the peace of Christ may dwell in our hearts and in the world, let us pray to the Lord. R/.

After the intercessions the leader invites all present to say the Lord's Prayer.

The leader says the prayer with hands joined:

Lord our God,

we praise you for the light of creation:

the sun, the moon, and the stars of the night.

We praise you for the light of Israel:

the Law, the prophets, and the wisdom of the Scriptures.

We praise you for Jesus Christ, your Son:

he is Emmanuel, God-with-us, the Prince of Peace,

who fills us with the wonder of your love.

Lord God,

let your blessing come upon us

as we illumine this tree.

May the light and cheer it gives

be a sign of the joy that fills our hearts.

May all who delight in this tree

come to the knowledge and joy of salvation.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

R/. Amen.

The lights of the tree are then illuminated.

The leader concludes the rite by signing himself or herself with the sign of the cross and saying:

May the God of glory fill our hearts with peace and joy, now and forever.

R/. Amen.

The blessing concludes with a verse from "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel":

O come, thou dayspring, come and cheer

our spirits by thine advent here;

disperse the gloomy clouds of night

and death's dark shadow put to flight.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel

shall come to thee, O Israel.

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